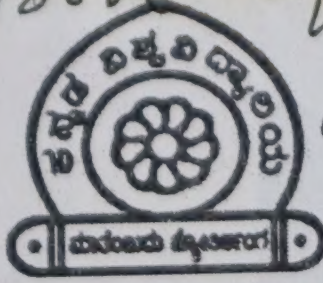


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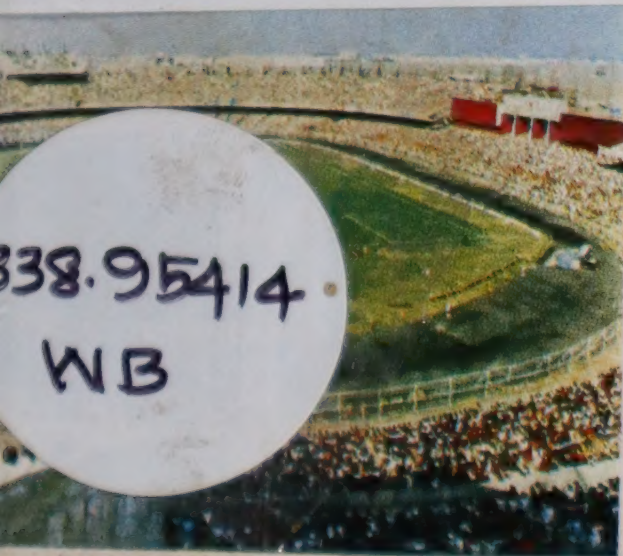


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Water supply project at Darjeeling

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LEFT FRONT GOVERNMENT IN WEST BENGAL

EIGHT YEARS

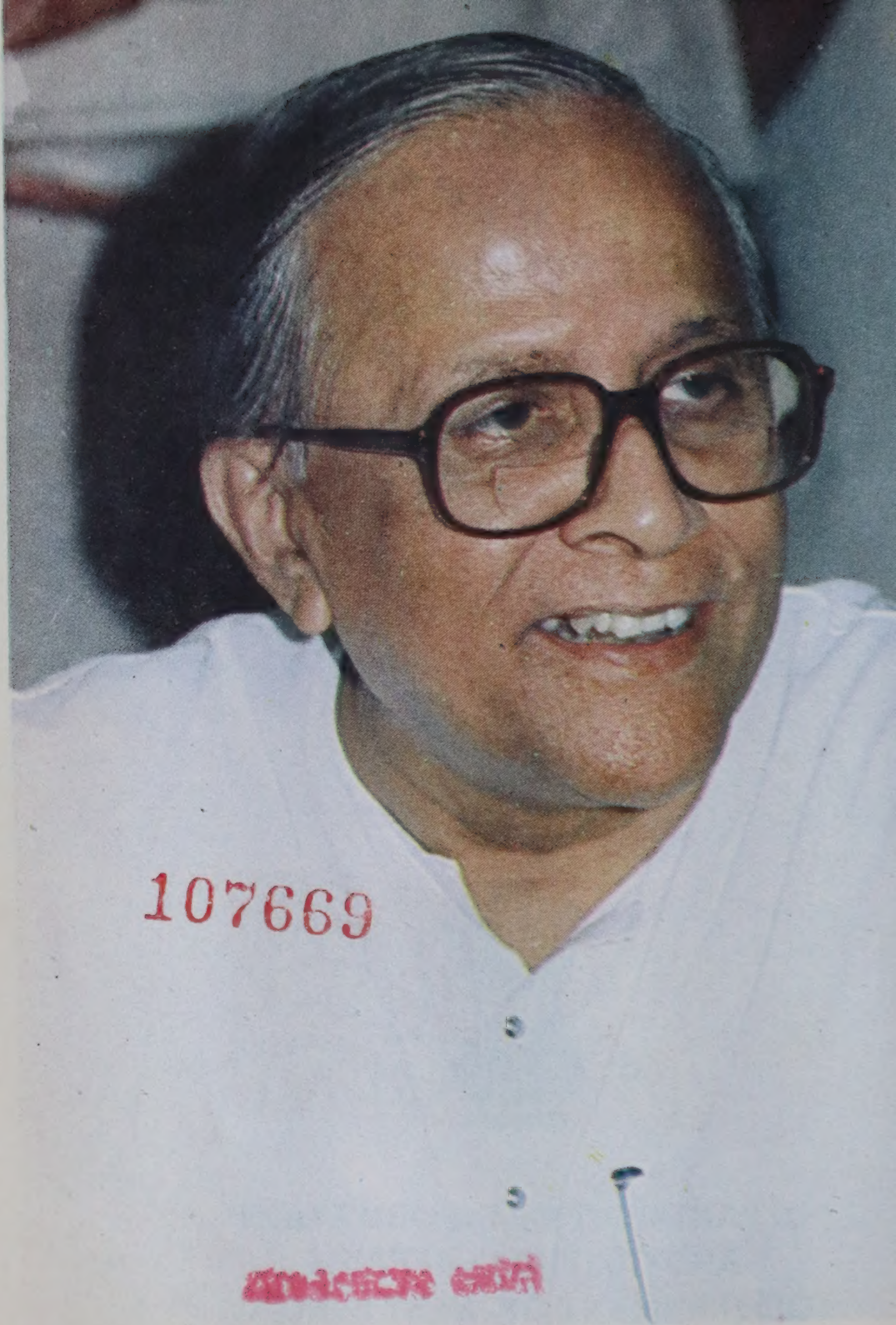
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী
বাংলাদেশ সরকার

AKSHARA GRANTHALAYA



ACC.NO. 107669

DEPARTMENT OF INFORMATION
AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS
GOVERNMENT OF WEST BENGAL



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FOREWORD

The Left Front Government has just completed another year of its administration. During these eight years our endeavour has been to be in close touch with the people and we are grateful for the cooperation extended by them. The role that this Government has played in the restoration and extension of democracy is also well known. Our Government has been implementing various public welfare programmes on a priority basis despite limited powers and financial constraints. The aim of our programmes is to alleviate the sufferings of the rural and urban people and to improve their conditions to a certain extent. We do not claim anything more, as we are aware that without structural

changes in the socio-economic order it is hardly possible to bring about any basic change in the conditions of the people.

During the last eight years we have had to encounter various hurdles and obstacles in the sphere of governmental activities. The discriminatory behaviour of Central Government and their lack of interest in the development work in the State have been a deterrent in our own work. Nevertheless, we are moving forward following definite direction in the implementation of programmes relating to various public welfare projects. We are inspired by the support and cooperation of the people for our work. We have ensured the election and the smooth functioning of democratic institutions like the Panchayats and the Municipal bodies. Panchayat and Municipal elections had not been held for many years prior to our assumption of office. Elections for these institutions have been held during our regime and the process of democratic decentralisation has been accelerated. The Panchayats have ushered in a new spurt of activities in the rural areas. It has caused the emergence of local leadership and the pace of development has helped creating a lot of permanent resources in the villages. After holding the Municipal elections, funds have been placed at the disposal of these bodies to bring about noticeable change in the activities of local self-government for the benefit of the people.

The Calcutta Municipal Corporation election has been held on June 30, 1985 on the basis of the Municipal Corporation Act enacted by the State Government.

For the State's economic regeneration our government has been laying emphasis on land reforms and agricultural development. Remarkable progress in agricultural production is really heartening. A clear picture of development in the rural areas during the last eight years has emerged. By comparison, there remains certain problems in the field of urban development. We, however, have been sparing no efforts to sort them out.

One could unhesitatingly say that the law and order situation in West Bengal is on the whole satisfactory. The people of this State have never been intolerant on the question of caste, creed, language or religion. Communal harmony has remained undisturbed despite various provocations. There has been no incident of oppression against the harijans and women in the State. People belonging to the minority community, scheduled castes and tribes are safe in this State. A vigilant eye has been kept on the preservation of the cultural heritage of the people of West Bengal. Stability has never been at stake in the State during the last eight years. Compared to other States the life in this State is normal and easy.

Our endeavour in tackling power situation has started yielding good results. An additional 1362 M.W. had been added to the installed capacity during the period from 1977-78 to 1983-84. Besides, special measures are being taken to augment the generation in its units. We have placed our proposals to the Centre for installation of a few more units at Bakreswar (Birbhum), Sagardighi (Murshidabad) and some in North Bengal. We have also proposed to set up a hydro-electric project on Teesta and a few more in other parts of North Bengal. Progress along proposed direction would initiate a remarkable change in the power situation.

The overall situation in West Bengal is quite conducive to industrialisation. During the last eight years, there has been marked development in cottage industry. Left Front Government has been taking initiatives in setting up of new units and improving their performances. Economic betterment of the State largely depends on the development of modern and big industries. Centre's investment and aids from various financial institutions are imperative for the development of big industries. But unfortunately, the Centre has been doing injustice to West Bengal in this regard. For a number of years the Centre did not invest in any important industry in this State and other financial institutions have the same record. We expected the

Central Government to invest in the electronics industry at Bidhan Nagar and petro-chemical plant at Haldia. But after dilly dallying for a long time the Centre has backed out. Much of our valued time has thus been lost. At present, the State Government has decided to set up petro-chemical plant and some industrial units at Bidhan Nagar in joint sector. Very recently the State Government has executed an agreement with the private investors in the matter of setting up of a petro-chemical plant at Haldia. Extensive activities are going on for setting up of various electronic industrial units at Bidhan Nagar. Both joint and private sector ventures would be operating from here. We will provide infrastructural and other facilities to the private investors to attract more investments in this State. Our concern for the sick and closed industry is well-known. We have been urging the Centre and other financial institutions to take up the right line of action. We have reminded the Centre time and again regarding its exclusive responsibility in opening the sick and closed industries. We are, however, fully aware of our own responsibilities in this regard. But a recent condition laid by the Centre in nationalisation of sick industries goes, beyond doubt, against the interests of the industry. The wagon industry has been passing through a crisis for some time past due to drastic cut in placement of

orders for wagons by the Centre. We have requested the Centre for solution of the problem. Anarchy prevailed in the realm of education prior to our assuming office. The measures we undertook brought about an atmosphere of peace and discipline. Left Front Government stresses on the need for democratisation of education based on a scientific outlook. Our sincere efforts for the propagation of healthy culture has received public support.

We are committed to fulfil our promises made to the people. We never hesitate to tell them about our problems and difficulties since we have nothing to conceal from them. We believe in self-criticism. We are undertaking specific steps for administrative reforms. We look forward to the cooperation from all corners in this regard. We are engaged in awakening the democratic consciousness among the majority of people. Self-confidence and self respect of the people have been restored. I am confident that the people of West Bengal with the spirit of self-confidence would march forward towards a brighter future.

June 15, 1985
Writers Buildings
Calcutta

Jyoti Basu

Left Front Government in West Bengal

Eight Years

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WEST BENGAL



Area	— 87,853.00 Sq. K.M.
Population	— 54,580,647 (1981 Census)
Urban Population	— 14,446,721
Rural Population	— 40,133,926
Scheduled Caste Population	— 12,000,768
Scheduled Tribe Population	— 3,070,672
No. of Districts	— 16
No. of Sub-divisions	— 49
No. of Bloc	— 341
No. of Police Station	— 344
No. of Mouzas	— 41,392
No. of Gram Panchayats	— 3,305
No. of towns	— 291
No. of Municipalities	— 111
Rate of Literacy	— 40.88 per cent (22,271,867)
Literate Male	— 50.49 per cent (14,391,808)
Literate female	— 30.33 per cent (78,80,059)
Cultivable land	— 5,575,000 hectares
No. of Bargadars	— 12,79,940
Total forest area	— 11,86,000 hectares



Legislative Assembly

Left Front Government promised a better Ideal for the people even within the limitations of the parliamentary form of democracy and took steps to restore democratic rights to them. It, in fact enlarged those rights. As part of that pledge this Government has tried to protect the strength and dignity of the Legislative Assembly. In conducting the Assembly proceedings the Left Front Government has pursued certain basic policies. These are, (i) the Legislative Assembly must be allowed to function properly, (ii) the representatives of the people must be able to discharge their duties freely and fearlessly. (iii) the opposition members in the Assembly must be given their due respect and importance. (iv) even though in the present set up a Speaker cannot be elected as an independent candidate, he should nonetheless ensure that every member enjoys all the rights and privileges as guaranteed by the constitution and according to the rules of the Assembly. These guiding principles have been followed during the last eight years.

In 1977 the Left Front received massive mandate of people for the eighth Assembly of this State. There was no recognised opposition party in the House. Janata was the largest opposition group, but they also could not move any no-confidence motion against the government. And yet, in 1977-82 they were given all the privileges of an opposition party and were allotted half the fixed time to participate in the debates, discussions etc.

NINTH ASSEMBLY

In 1982 the Left Front once again received vast majority for the Ninth Assembly. In this House, Congress (I) became the recognised opposition party and its leader in the House received the recognition of becoming the Leader of oppositon. He enjoyed all the benefits of a Cabinet Minister. This was something that was done for the first time in the long history of Legislative Assembly of West Bengal.

Among a section of the opposition party there was a tendency to oppose the parliamentary form of administration. Though they could not always play the proper role of the opposition members, the Government and the Speaker created some remarkable precedents in their efforts to protect the dignity of the House.

In 1983, Congress (I) moved a no-confidence motion against the Government. The Speaker allowed this motion of no-confidence while

disallowing a Government's supplementary motion which would have been virtually a confidence motion. This was a historic ruling during the Left Front regime.

A PRECEDENT

On 8th March, 1984, One Congress (I) member made an objectionable and unpaliamentary remark against the Chief Minister. In spite of the Speaker's repeated requests the member refused to withdraw his remark. When the Speaker asked him to leave the House for the day he refused to do so. As a result, the member was suspended for the current session. The member along with his party colleagues tried to obstruct the proceedings of the House and the Speaker then orderd the Marshal to eject the member out of the House. The Speaker requested the leader of that party to restrain those members. The request was not heeded and disturbances continued. The Speaker then suspended some more members and asked them to leave the House. They refused to comply and continued with their unruly behaviur. Finally, they occupied the floor of the House for more than nine hours and damaged some articles.

Next day the budget was to be presented. But they continued to stay and as such the Speaker had to remove them with the help of the guards of the Assembly. Thus the Speaker averted a constitutional crisis and upheld the dignity of the House. The Budget could be

presented as usual. This will remain as a precedent in the history of the parliamentary democracy in India.

In the same session some days later, the opposition moved a no confidence motion against the Speaker. Although against rules, the Speaker allowed the motion and thus protected the dignity of the House. He opined that the representatives of the people must be allowed to give vent to their views.

In 1984, after long twenty-six years, All India Speaker's Conference was held in this State.

During the current year's budget session, when some ministers failed to be present in the House in time, the Speaker expressed his displeasure and reminded the Government that such things undermine the prestige of the House. The Ministers later apologised to the members of the House.

LAND REFORMS

The Left Front Government, in their attempt to follow a policy of all round and organised rural development gave topmost priority to Land Reforms.

Of course, there were Land Reforms Acts which had provisions of land ceiling, distribution of surplus land to landless, but these provisions had never been properly enforced. During the last eight years the Left Front Government made sincerest and vigorous attempts to enforce those legal provisions in true sense of the term. With this end in view, active participation of the Panchayats and cooperation from the farmers' organisations were sought for. A programme had been taken to distribute surplus lands among the landless and to safeguard the rights of the sharecroppers. Other features of the programme were to vest the surplus land above land ceiling in the State and to distribute necessary agricultural equipments to the sharecroppers and new owners of land and grant loans to them and to offer owners' right to the homestead holdings of many poor people of rural areas etc.

The aim of the Left Front Government is to vest maximum area of surplus land in the State through the present system of law. Earlier, many landlords tried to take undue advantage of many loopholes of the legal provisions and in this way they accumulated huge land above the ceiling provision. The State Government with the active help of the Panchayats are finding out those surplus lands and taking legal actions against them.

For the distribution of vested land, the State Government laid proper stress on distributing those lands to real landless so that they might become self-dependent. If these new farmers, receiving loans and agricultural equipment from the Government could reap good harvest, it might even increase food production to an extent. With the active help from the panchayats the State Government could distribute 8.03 lakh acres of vested land upto March 31, 1985. About 15.96 lakh people received those lands among which about 55 per cent belonged to Scheduled Castes and Tribes.

Another important feature of this programme is to safeguard the interests of sharecroppers and to ensure safe cultivation by them. With this end in view from 1978 onward the names of share croppers were recorded with topmost priority. It has now become an integral part of the settlement works to record the names of those share croppers. With the

help of the 'Operation barga' programme the recorded number of Bargadars on March 31, 1985 stands at 13.17 lakh. Arrangements also were made to help them with grants, loans, agricultural equipments etc. from Banks, through different schemes of I.R.D.P., N.R.E.P. etc. In 1979 only 59 thousands people received loans whereas in 1984-85 about 3 lakh people have been benefited.

With the enactment of 1975 Acquisition of Homestead Land Act about 1.98 lakh people received homestead rights for their holdings. Through longdrawn efforts of the State Government ultimately 10.12 lakh sq. m. surplus lands of the urban areas have been vested in the State.

In Purulia and Islampur sub-divisions land record correction of the Tribals have been started. Work is in progress and after its completion Tribal people would be assured of their rights of the holdings.

There were 3,300 Tahshildars and Tahshildar peons in West Bengal who were not recognised as full fledged Government Employees. From July 1, 1984 those Tahshildars below the age of 58 and Tahsil peons below the age of 60 were appointed as Land Assistants and Peons and Night Guards.

Agriculture

There is no doubt about the fact that the principle and method regarding betterment of agriculturists and development of agriculture pursued by the Left Front Government during the last 8 years, series of hurdles notwithstanding, have contributed considerably to the progress in the agricultural sector.

Despite continuance of unprecedented and widespread drought over a period of five years it had been possible to reach the level of total crop production in 3 years. Against a fixed production target of 9.5 million tonnes of foodgrains in 1983-84, the actual production rose up to 9.17 million tonnes. It is an all-time high in the history of agricultural production in this State. Similar record is expected to be reached in 1984-85 also.

The comparison between the average production during the last five years and in 1983-84 stands thus:

Total food grains production increased by 18 per cent

Total potato production increased by 50 per cent

Total oilseeds production increased by 62 per cent



Harvest Scene

Total quantity of chemical fertilizers in use increased by 54 per cent and total excess area under cultivation of high yielding crops in 5 lakh hectares

Production of wheat was 26 quintals in 1983-84 equivalent to the rate in other principal wheat producing States of India.

Production, per hectare and gross, of potato during the sixth plan reached an all-time high in this State. In 1983-84 the total production of potato was 30.4 lakh ton and in 1984-85 it rose to about 31 lakh ton. As a result, West Bengal, as a surplus state is meeting the demand of neighbouring states also.

Average rate of increase per year in the use of chemical fertilizers comprising of nitrogen, phosphate and potash was 172 thousand metric tonnes. Within 6 years it became more than double in quantity—369 thousand metric tonnes in 1983-84. It was all time high in West Bengal.

Production of oil seeds also increased remarkably. In 1983-84 195.6 thousand M.T. oil seeds were produced which created a record.

'Cropping intensity' in West Bengal was 112 per cent in 1947-48; in 1966-67 on the eve of introduction of high yielding variety seeds it reached 120 per cent. It has attained 144 per cent at present, the target by the end of the 7th plan is 155 per cent. As a result of introduction and expansion of multi-crop system, the total 'gross area of agricultural land

under cultivation throughout the year is about 7.9 million hectares ('net' area about 5.5 million hectares).

Compared to the total demand of the present population of West Bengal, there is a deficit in the production of paddy and wheat. The deficit in the case of pulses and oilseeds is a little higher. But West Bengal is surplus in the production of some cash crops, viz., jute, potato, etc. and a variety of vegetables. We now supply these products outside West Bengal which was unthinkable in the earlier days.

Agricultural Development in the Seventh Plan: At present about 8 million tonnes of food grains are produced in a year in West Bengal. By 1989-90, i.e. the last year of the 7th plan, it would require 11 million tonnes. That means, about 38 per cent more. Technologically it is not impossible but keeping in view the limited resources of the State the target has been fixed at 10.05 million tonnes. To reach this target, the present rate of average production will have to be increased by 30 per cent within 5 years. If this target is reached then within next five years Rs. 2,700 crores would be collected from the excess agricultural crops and additional employment would be generated with a financial value of Rs. 100 crores. The lion's share of these earnings would benefit the marginal farmers, bargadars and agricultural labourers.

RURAL DEVELOPMENT

More than fifty per cent of the rural folk of West Bengal live still below poverty level. The comprehensive economic and social development of the State is practically impossible unless and until the economic condition of this vast multitude is improved.

Land reforms constitute in our country a major component in any type of planning for comprehensive rural development. The main target of land reforms is to abolish intermediary right and establish the legal rights of actual peasants on land. The Government has imposed ceiling on land and in this way a large amount of agricultural land is vested with the Government. Here the State Government's achievement is spectacular. It has so far recovered about 13 lakh acres of surplus land whereas the all-India figure is 75 lakh acres only. The State Government have been able to distribute this agricultural land among 16 lakh out of 38 lakh landless peasants. The State Government has made proposal for amending the present Act in this regard, and, when it receives President's



Fisherman catching fish in a newly excavated tank in a village

ascent, the State Government will be able to recover more such lands and distribute them among more landless agricultural labour. Beside this, the State Government has also undertaken the task of recording names of the bargadars or share croppers and about ten lakh of such names have been recorded during the last eight years. These recorded bargadars or share croppers are now having impetus in their work, and in consequence of this, both the total production of crops and the production capacity of land are on increase. The Government is aware of the fact that the families of these share-croppers should enjoy all the facilities of all plans and programmes that are undertaken by the Government for rural uplift. For this, the Panchayat organisations are vested with necessary powers to see that all facilities of rural development programmes should reach these people in proper and fair way.

The Panchayat organisations have also undertaken the responsibility of implementing National Rural Employment Programme, previously known as Food for Work Programme. After receiving the district wise allotment of fund from the Government the Zilla Parishad and the Gram Panchayats prepare the schemes and implement them. The Gram Panchayats undertake the small schemes and the Zilla Parishad, the bigger ones. The agricultural labourers have no

work in slack seasons. The aim of the National Rural Employment Programme is to provide employment to the agricultural labourers throughout the year. Besides, these village organisations look after different developmental work through the implementation of various schemes. During the last eight years the State Govt. created more than 26 crores and 76 lakh mandays under Food for work and NREP and upto December, 1984, the State Government has been able to make:—

1. Plantation of 8,000 hectares of land under social forestry.
2. Sinking of 11,000 and repairing of 580 tube-wells for the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes.
3. Building of more than 6,000 community huts.
4. Reclamation of more than 4,300 tanks.
5. Extension of irrigation facilities to 191000 hectares of land through minor and small irrigation system
6. Development of 126,000 hectares of land through land and water preservation and land reforms schemes.
7. Development and repair of 152,000 kilometres of village roads
8. Construction of 7,500 culverts
9. Construction of 2,600 Panchayat buildings
10. Construction of 250 bamboo and wooden bridges

11. Construction and repair of 12,000 schools buildings
12. Construction of 36 granaries
13. Construction of 3 rural godowns and
14. Construction of 17 bus stand and 41 resting sheds

Besides, under the Employment Scheme for rural landless people, Rs.12 crores 38 lakh were spent upto the financial year 1984-85, creating 8 lakh mandays, entirely through the Zilla Parishads.

The achievement in the field of land reforms is quite satisfactory. Government have distributed so far the vested lands to 42% of the 38 lakh agricultural labourers, so that these people may come under the purview of the comprehensive rural development programmes. We render aid to three or four lakh of such people through short-term loans and grant of seeds, manures etc. and we are also considering of extending irrigation facilities to their lands.

Earlier, this programme aimed at assisting groups of people. But Banks refused to sanction loans to groups. Hence of late it is decided to assist families instead. Banks are now financing the rural families to help them rise above the poverty line. Under the above scheme, the total number of benefited families and the amount of total loan disbursed were 275,806 and Rs. 4003.41 lakh respectively

in 1984-85 whereas the amount had stood for 28,481 and Rs. 138.63 lakh and respectively in 1980-81.

Besides the comprehensive rural development programme, the other Government departments are also working in rural development in various ways, and their continuation has always been possible in all tenet, which is essential for all level development programmes under the present economic structure the objective of the State Government is to remove poverty of rural folk. To make it possible in a comprehensive way, the responsibility of implementing all rural development programmes should be vested in one organisation. In this regard the Left Front Government has constituted project committees under each block and district level, which have already started to function from the current financial year.



Road building in a rural area

IRRIGATION & WATERWAYS

The Irrigation & Waterways Department has been entrusted with Major and Medium Irrigation Project, Flood Control and Drainage works.

IRRIGATION SECTOR

Teesta Barrage Project

The Teesta Barrage Project, the most important achievement and the biggest Irrigation Project in West Bengal came in reality after the present Left Front Government came in power. Although this Project was commenced in 1975 only some preliminary works were done upto 1976.

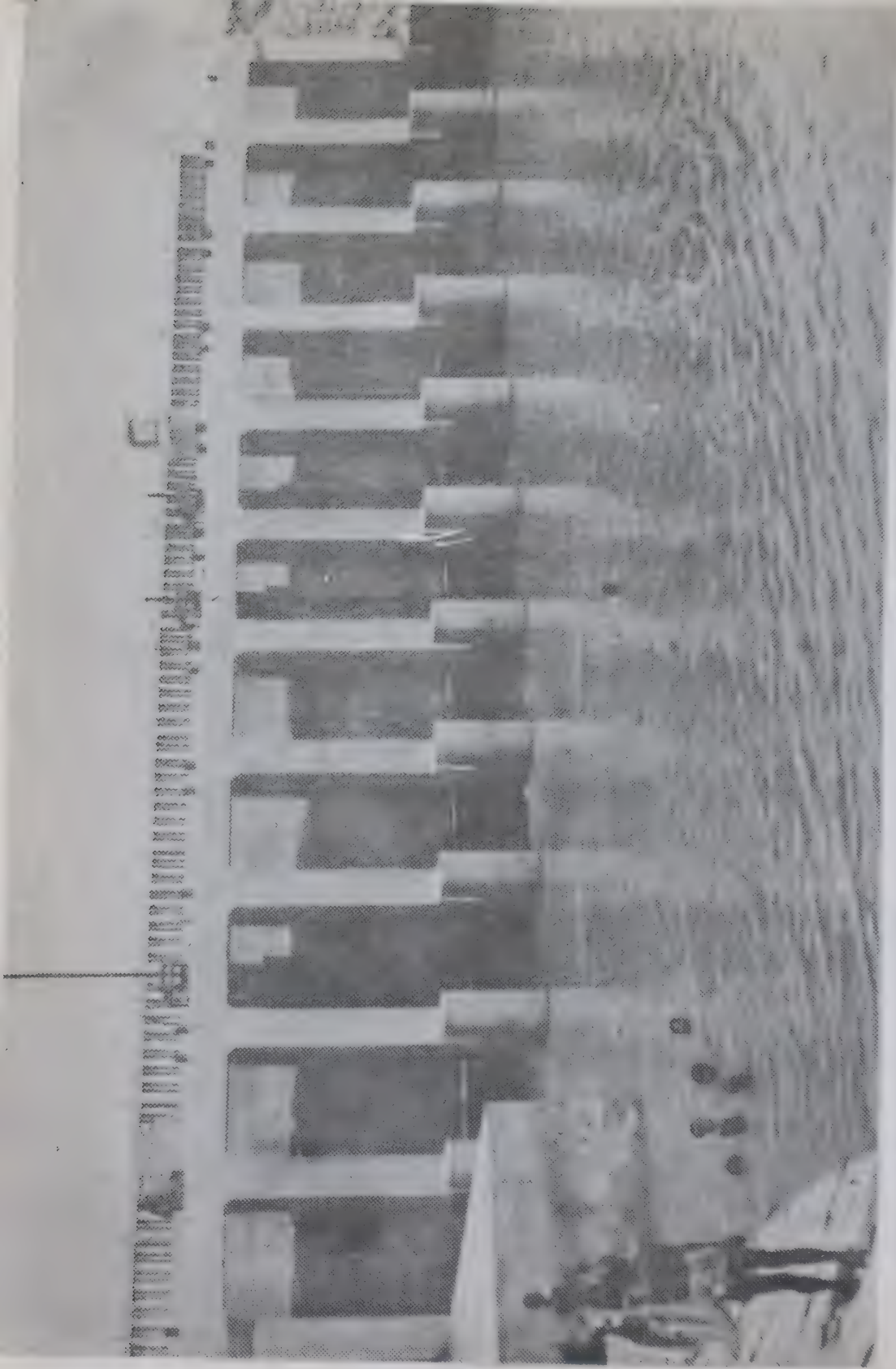
The target of the 1st. Sub-Stage of Teesta Barrage Project envisages creation of Irrigation potential as under:-

Kharriff....	303.60	Thousand hectares
Rabi....	76.00	" "
	379.60	" "

Execution of the Major works of the Teesta Barrage Project i.e., Construction of the Teesta Barrage, Mahananda Barrage and Mahananda Aqueduct was commenced during the last 8 years' tenure of the Left Front Government.

During 8 years' tenure of the Left Front Government the entire Project has progressed considerably. Thereby the hope of commencement of irrigation during the 1986 Khariff season has become bright. During this study period the civil works of main barrages viz., Teesta Barrage and the Mahananda Barrage have been completed and also the construction of the Mahananda Aqueduct which is the second biggest Aqueduct in Asia, has been completed. Excavation of the main canal system viz. Teesta Mahananda Link Canal, Mahananda Main Canal and Dauk Nagar Main canal with linking work is in progress.

The desired progress could not be achieved due to inadequate supply of essential building materials like Cement, M.S. materials etc. for which assistance from the C W C and Government of India was considered not upto our expectation. The problem of timely acquisition of land and obtaining the physical possession thereof is constantly standing in the way of smooth progress of this gigantic Project.



Lockgate of an irrigation reservoir

* The major constraint is want of assured flow of fund although around 65% of the State Irrigation budget has been spent so far. The Teesta Barrage Project is the only project with international significance and there is no other project in India which can be equated with this.

The Central Govt. has, however, been approached this year for rendering special assistance to the tune of Rs. 18 crores for accelerating the progress of works so that irrigation may start by the middle of the next year.

OTHER MAJOR IRRIGATION PROJECT

Next in order of performance in the Irrigation Sector comes up the intensification of Irrigation works of Kangsabati Project, extension and improvement of Barrage & Irrigation system of D.V.C. and stabilisation of Irrigation potential of Mayurakshi Reservoir Project.

Kangsabati Reservoir Projects

Before 1977, though the construction of the Head works, Excavation of the Main and Branch canal of Kangsabati Project were completed, the progress achieved in respect of distribution system of 3000 KM. and structures of 7543 Nos. was only 25%, whereas the progress achieved upto the end of 1984-85 was to the extent of 98.50%.

Improvement and Extension of Barrage and Irrigation System of D.V.C.

About 80% of works so far has been completed out of provision of about 1700 structures and 900 KM of canal length. In the year 1983-84 the total area irrigation is given below:-

Khariff....	325.70	Thousand hectares
Rabi....	70.90	" "

Additional benefit created during the last 8 years:-

Potential created	Potential utilised
105.00 Thousand hectares	70.00 Thousand hectares

Mayurakshi Reservoir Project

This project has practically been completed with its distribution system and potential created to 250.86 Thousand hectares.

Utilisation of the Irrigation potential has also gone up to the full extent during the last 8 years.

Medium Irrigation Schemes

Out of 21 Nos. of Medium Irrigation Schemes taken up during the Sixth Plan Period in the drought prone area of Purulia, Birbhum & Bankura District. 2 Nos. (viz. Hinglow & Saharajore) and 2 Nos. (Kumari & Bandhu) under D.P.a.P. have been completed.

FLOOD CONTROL SECTOR

The flood problems in this state are very complex. The total area prone to flood in West Bengal is 37.66 Th. Sq. KM.

It is proposed to bring nearly 3750 Sq. Km. under protection from floods during the Seventh Plan Period. This will involve a cost of Rs. 200 crores.

Some beneficial Flood Control and Drainage Schemes have been commenced during this period important of which are:

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) Ghea Kunti Basin Drainage Scheme | - In the Dist. Hooghly. |
| 2) Urgent Development works in Sundarbans. | - In P.S. Hingalganj, Minakhan, Basanti, Patharpratima, Canning, Namkhana, Mathurapur, Sagar, Kultali, Raidighi, Kakdwip in the Dist. of 24-Pargans |

FLOOD HAVOCS AND DROUGHT CONDITION

Besides Flood Control Schemes the Department had to tackle the problems of Flood havoc as well as situation arising out of severe drought on several occasions during the last 8 years.

Flood Havocs:

Three successive spell of flood hit almost the entire State of West Bengal between

August and October, 1978.

High priority was given to the work of restoration of damaged structures in the irrigation and flood control sectors which cost nearly Rs. 30 crores. The restoration work for the irrigation structures and canals was completed by December '78 and January '79 so as to provide extensive Rabi and Boro irrigation in the command areas, ensuring harvest of bumper crop.

The Cyclone of 1981

A very severe cyclonic storm lashed the Sunderbans area and washed areas of Midnapore on the 10th and the 11th December, 1981. Repairing and restoration work to the structures were taken up on a priority basis at a cost of about Rs. 21 crores. During 1980 monsoon, a large scale landslide occurred in hill areas of Darjeeling District. Immediate repairs and restoration work to such damages were taken up at a cost of Rs. 50 lakhs and completed within the scheduled time.

Drought of 1981-82 and 1982-83

The state had experienced an unprecedented drought situation in 1981-82. During the pre-monsoon period, storage in the Mayurakshi the D.V.C. and the Kangsabati reservoirs remained depleted.

Again, after a meagre monsoon, the State was hit by severe drought in June, 1982 and the monsoon totally withdrew after the first

week of September, 1982. As a result, standing Kharif crop was badly affected.

A majority of irrigation and flood control works under the 1982-83 plan was included in the Employment generation programme during the first spell of drought in 1982, an amount of Rs. 150 lakhs was spent generating 17 lakhs man-days upto December, 1982. During the second spell i.e. from January to March, 1983, the programme was further intensified to generate about 122 lakhs man-days for which Rs. 946.68 lakhs were received by this Department.

Flood havoc in June-July '84 and August, September, 1984.

West Bengal experienced two waves of flood during June-July, 1984. During the later part of August and September '84 there was another wave of flood in the Gangetic West Bengal and incessant rainfall in the Sub-Himalayan Districts causing considerable damages to the river protective works in those areas and water logging in Calcutta City and its suburb and the districts of 24-Parganas, Midnapore, Howrah, Hooghly, Nadia, Murshidabad and Malda. All the drainage systems were severely taxed and damaged considerably. An estimated additional amount for Rs. 28.50 crores was demanded as Central assistance to repair the flood damages and restoration of the works to pre-flood caution.

During the third wave of flood during August-September, 1984, further damages were caused to the engineering structures in Gangetic West Bengal and resulted in considerable damage to the embankments, protective works and spurs on the North Bengal rivers. Supply estimate for repairs and restoration of damage amounting to Rs. 11.25 crores was submitted to the centre.

Out of the above demand a sum of Rs. 8.50 crores has so far been received with the result that a huge liability had to be incurred by now.

Minor Irrigation

I 1984-85 is the last year of the Sixth five year Plan. Additional irrigation potential of 218.13 thousand hectares had already been created during the first four years of the Sixth Plan and another 65.30 thousand hectares have been created during 1984-85. The realisation of this much irrigation potential was possible because of the various measures adopted by the Government in forging its strategy of development into an instrument of growth.

This strategy gave special emphasis on ensuring equitable distribution of the water resources of the community in favour of its weaker sections and target groups, in mitigation, as far as possible, of the imbalance created in the agricultural sector as an aftermath of the so-called Green Revolution which was not really all that green. Hence the hallmark of policy approach of this Government had been to give special emphasis on low cost irrigation structures like shallow tubewells, Filter points, dugwells, pumpsets, small irrigation schemes, etc, owned by small and marginal farmers mostly individually and sometime collectively, as in the

case of the small irrigation schemes, Boro Bundh scheme and occasional clusters of shallow tubewells with pumpsets. This task was taken up with utmost sincerity of purpose and resolution. The anxiety of this Government to ameliorate the hard lot of our peasantry is evident from the Plan actions of granting of 75 per cent subsidy for individually owned pucca dugwells in favour of the small and marginal farmers and assignees of vested lands (far in excess of the all-India norm of subsidy of 25 per cent or $33\frac{1}{3}$ per cent of the project cost as the case may be;) grant of 100 per cent subsidy for small irrigation scheme of community nature much in excess of the all-India norm of 50 per cent subsidy for such schemes; grant of Rs.1 crore of subsidy for small, marginal and even medium farmers during 1982-83 for construction of shallow tubewells in the context of virtual withdrawal of SFDA pattern of subsidy from the M.I. sector at that time due to adoption of the new norm of covering the "poorest of the poor" under the DRDAs; utilisation during 1982-83 and 1983-84 of drought fund of Rs.17 crores approximately for generating employment by resorting to construction of low cost M.I. structures like Boro Bundh, dugwalls, tanks, surface irrigation, drainage scheme benefiting the weaker sections and target groups and launching of the massive M.I. programme of subsidy and loan assistance to

small and marginal farmers on DRDA pattern at the rate of Rs.3.5 lakhs per block on equalsharing basis between the Centre and the State Government with effect from 1983-84. The scheme had a late start in August, 1983 but about 50 per cent of fund made available at the rate of Rs.1.5 lakh per block during 1983-84 could still be utilised. The districts of Nadia, Malda, Burdwan, West Dinajpur, Howrah and Murshidabad showed utilisation percentage ranging between 100 per cent to 57 per cent. The programme is being monitored at the highest level to remove bottlenecks and to ensure co-ordination between the executing agencies at the field level i.e. the District Administration, the Panchayats and the Banks.

UTILISATION OF EXISTING CAPACITY

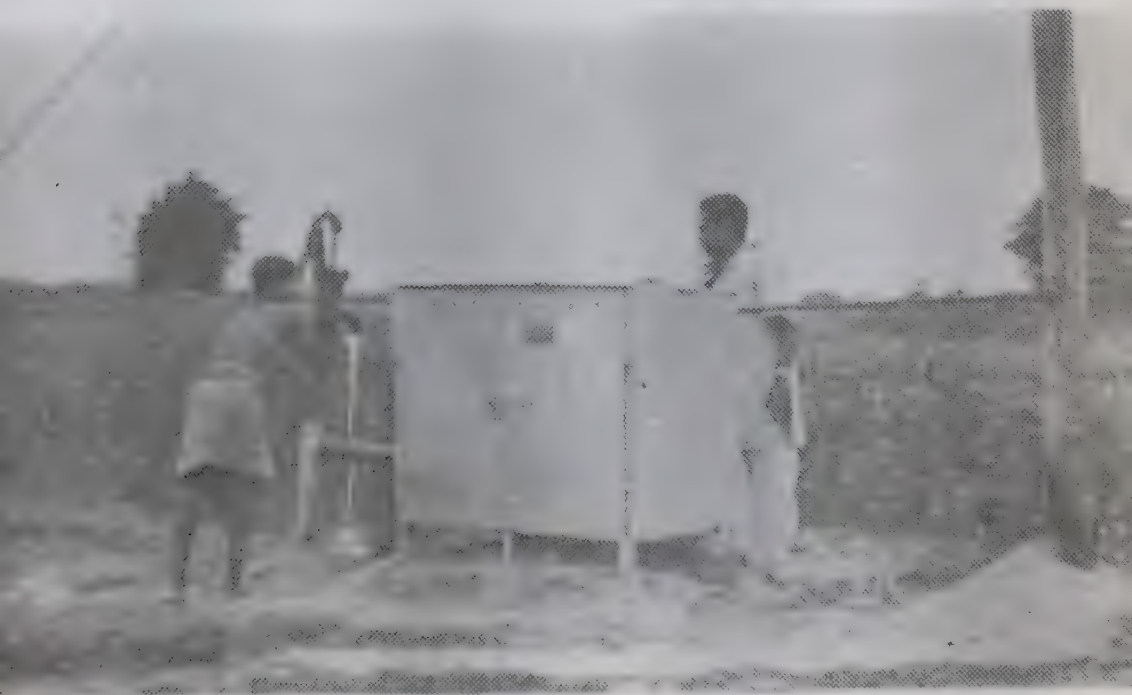
So far as high cost M.I. structures like Deep Tubewells and Riverlift Irrigation are concerned the emphasis had been not so much on any grandiose programme of securing spectacular extension in mere number of structures but rather on consolidation of the gains, on ensuring optimum utilisation of existing capacity. The highlight of activity in this regard are intensification of the optimisation programme through rotational system of irrigation by bringing increasing number of Deep tubewells and Riverlift Irrigation within the fold of this programme in a phased

manner; sanctioning of a programme of development of 52 exploratory D.T.W.s sunk by S.W.I.D. as production tubewells as the first phase of a staggered programme, taking up of a programme of redrilling of 20 defunct Deep Tubewells as the first phase of a programme of restoration of installations otherwise irretrievable and revitalisation of 115 derelict shallow tubewells by replacing their centrifugal pumps with submersible ones. The Government had also put special emphasis on completion of the Riverlift Irrigation pipelines and keeping the Government-owned M.I. installation in order by replacement of transformer, stolen or burnt due to low voltage and H.T. and L.T. lines. Its solicitude to ensure consumption of at least 10 per cent of the total generation of electricity in the minor irrigation sector is evident from the programme of gradual conversion of diesel-run D.T.W.s/R.L.I.s into electricity, and from the broad policy decision that henceforward in case of new constructions, electricity would be preferred to diesel wherever possible and permissible.

SIXTH PLAN BENEFITS

The results of this policy approach of Government may be seen in the fact that notwithstanding severe budgetary constraint it had been possible to sustain the rate of growth of irrigation potential which has in

fact registered marginal improvement over previous Plan attainments. It is heartening to note that percentage utilisation of irrigation potential had also registered about 10 per cent increase in course of the last two years and appreciable rate of growth hitherto unprecedented had been attained in the shallow tubewell sector. The cumulative total of shallow tubewells as on 1st April 1981 had been 1,85,687 as against 78,093 at the end of 1976. In the absence of a full-scale survey no firm figure about the present number of such installations is available but there is no doubt that the figure must have exceeded two lakhs by now. In course of seven years it has, therefore, been possible to achieve around 250 per cent of what could be achieved during 30



years since independence. But by far the most important achievement is to be sought not in these external landmarks but in the inner change in our peasantry wrought out by a new orientation for improving productivity by deployment of mechanical means in agriculture as a safety valve against future contingencies and natural hazards. Water being the most crucial input in agriculture, this new consciousness has created an irresistible urge in our peasantry for possession of more and more of M.I. structures as a guarantee for growth.

The State Government initiated activities to attach the problem of poverty and to integrate the millions of small and marginal farmers into the agricultural production structure of our economy, perhaps not without results, as eloquently testified by production of 8.87 lakh tonnes of boro paddy during 1982-83 and 13.3 lakh tonnes of boro production during 1983-84 far exceeding all previous records primarily with assured irrigation provided by different M.I. projects where percentage utilisation of potential has shown an upward rise by 10 per cent in course of the last two years. This enhanced production had saved import of foodgrains worth a few hundred crores of rupees from other States of India and contributed to the general well-being of our peasantry through creation of additional employment opportunities, enhanced purchas-

ing power and appreciation of value of their land. The newly emerging production consciousness of our peasantry with pronounced preference for mechanical devices in making mother earth yield her bounties will no doubt be fortified with the successful implementation of the various M.I. development projects envisaged in the Plan programme.



Panchayat

The Panchayat Raj System which was introduced in West Bengal through Panchayat Act, 1957 indeed, failed to derive its desired result. The rural poors did not find it fruitful even long after the independence. The inactive Panchayats only existed by name. The Panchayat Act, put on statute in 1973, was in fact made mass oriented and effective after the Left Front came to power in 1977.

A new three-tier Panchayat system was introduced through the Panchayat election held on June 4, 1978, all over the State in place of the four tier system. The three tiers are:- (i) Gram Panchayat, (ii) Panchayat Samiti and (iii) Zilla Parishad. By the massive mandate of the people, 3242 Gram Panchayats, 324 Panchayat Samitis and 15 Zilla Parishads were constituted.

At the very outset the Panchayats faced a disastrous flood in West Bengal. In spite of that the Panchayats rendered yeomen service during and after the flood in assisting the State Government in rescuing the victims, distributing relief and reclaiming the lost and damaged properties. At that time roughly 56630 mandays were created through different schemes implemented by the Panchayats.

The responsibilities of Panchayats are of three types—statutory, voluntary and such other works which are entrusted to them from time to time. The newly elected bodies have been involved either directly or indirectly with the functioning of all State Government departments. It can be mentioned here that a sum of Rs.478.66 lakhs was disbursed through Panchayats till 1980-81.

The second general Panchayat election was held in 1983. About 55 thousand peoples' representatives were directly elected in three tiers of the Panchayats. The areas of Burdwan district which were not within the ambit of Panchayat system had been included in the second election. The number of Gram Panchayats after the second election stood at 3305. As for Panchayat Samities and Zilla Parishads the figures are 339 and 15 respectively.

During the last eight years more than 25000 lakh mandays had been created through successful implementation of National Rural Employment Programme by the Panchayat bodies. It has also been possible to create some permanent assets in rural areas through this programme. Integrated Rural Development Projects are also being implemented through Panchayats. During the last two years the number of beneficiaries under this project had reached the target set by the Central Government. Another prog-

ramme to provide job for 100 days a year to at least one member of a landless family has been taken up by the Panchayats for the last two financial years. Under the house-building projects, for the landless labourers, implemented by the Panchayats more than 63,000 houses have been built during the last several years.

The Panchayats have built 2,229 Gram Panchayat Bhavan and established 416 Homoeopathic centres so far. The Panchayats have been empowered to impose taxes and duties to raise their own resources. It is hoped that the rate of tax collection would increase gradually in view of certain amendments of the Panchayat Act.

The Office bearers of Panchayats are imparted extensive training enabling them to discharge their duties effectively.

The role of Panchayats deserved special mention in distribution of vested land and registering the names of Bargadars.

Finally, the new Panchayat system has been able to create a mass consciousness among the people hitherto unconceived of.

Animal Husbandry & Veterinery Services

In 1976-77 the budget of this department was Rs. 32,62,62,000 only; in 1985-86 it rose to Rs. 60,61,17,000—this higher allocation only shows the stress given by the Left Front Government on Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services.

The major objectives of Left Front Government towards comprehensive development of domestic animal wealth in West Bengal are: (1) increasing production of milk egg and meat with a view to maintaining the nutrition level in the daily diet of common man; (2) producing hybrid cows capable of yielding higher quantity of milk through artificial insemination with the sperm from foreign bulls; (3) providing facilities for self-reliance-oriented livelihood for the rural poor; and (4) preventing and curing diseases among the animals. With these measures the State Government aims at the all round improvement of cattle wealth of this State.

In this perspective the achievements of the State Government may be enumerated as follows: (1) No. of Intensive Cattle Development Projects from 4 in 1976-77 to 8 in 1984-85; (2) No. of Central cattle-seed Collection and Preservation Centres from 22 to 40; (3) No. of scientific Cow Breeding Centres/sub-centres from 915 to 1870; (4) Cattle-Feed Production Factories from 3 to 5; (5) total (daily) production of cattle-feed in the State from 40 m.t. to 200 m.t. and (6) Annual Production of eggs from 67,60,00,000 to 151,80,00,000 in 1984-85. During the sixth plan a total of 19,26,000 cows were brought within breeding programme and 5,30,000 hybrid calves were born. 90,270 families belonging to the scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, small and marginal farmers and landless agricultural labourers have been benefited so far through a project of making them economically self-reliant by distribution of cattle, piggery and poultry among them.

West Bengal Dairy and Poultry Development Corporation has been producing cattle-feed in the State. In 1983-84, two cattle-feed producing plants have been set up at Siliguri—one under the above-named Corporation and the other under Operation Flood-II. A liquid nitrogen Unit with a Capacity of 45 litres towards introducing refrigerated sperm method for scientific artificial insemination has been opened at Siliguri.

As a result of implementation of different cattle development programmes, the annual production of milk increased from 10,64,000 m.t. in 1976-77 to 22,00,000 m.t. in December 1983.

The number of different units of veterinary services increased from 1,096 in 1977 to 2,345 in 1984-85. Manufacture of Preventive vaccines of various cattle diseases has been brought under veterinary services project. Towards this end various preventive vaccines are produced under Biological Production Division at Belgachia. 57 lakh more doses of preventive vaccines were produced in 1984-85 than those in 1976-77. About 1,800 doses of preventive vaccines of hydrophobia were produced in 1983-84.

Ceiling of necessary medicines and equipments of operation to meet the demand of various veterinary services centres has been raised. A one-year veterinary compounder and dresser training course with 30 seats at Haringhata was started in 1982. A veterinary hospital towards benefiting the people belonging to the scheduled castes was opened in 1983-84 at Khejuri in Medinipur. A mobile veterinary clinic on a speed-boat has been inaugurated at Basanti block in the Sundarbans.

Financial limitations and shortcomings notwithstanding, the manifold advancement that has been registered during the last eight

years in the field of animal husbandry and veterinary services is nothing but the result of a continued effort of the people, panchayats and the State Government.



Cottage and Small Scale Industries

In consonance with the State Industrial Policy resolution the Cottage and Small Scale Industries Department has been able to create additional employment for 1.17 lakh persons during 1984-85 through promotion of SSI Units, Handicrafts, Handloom and Sericulture.

Small Scale Units

As against a total number of 1,33,640 registered Units upto 1979-80, the total registration upto 1984-85 is 2,03,322, out of which 19,054 Units were registered in 1984-85. This is a 43% increase over the number in 1983-84. The average investment per unit in our State has been estimated to be in the order of Rs. 1.5 lakh and average employment per Unit is about 6.5 persons. Our records indicate that about 65% of the Units are located in Calcutta, Howrah and Hooghly region. While 30% of the Units are engaged in engineering industries, only 10% of the industries are in chemical discipline. Recently emphasis has been laid on the desired development of electronics industries in the Small Scale Sector.

So far 1300 electronics schemes have been approved for assistance including 150 Units of black and white and colour T.V., out of which 25 Units of black and white and 10 Units of colour T.V. have already gone into production. The items manufactured also cover voltage stabilisers, bio-medical appliances, measuring instruments, micro-processors, mini computers, etc.

Entrepreneurial Development Programme

To encourage setting up of Small Scale Industries in different disciplines, 1654 new entrepreneurs were trained during last two financial years. A special programme was undertaken to train 50 entrepreneurs in different electronics items in 1984-85.

Financial Assistance To Small Scale Industrial Unit

Margin Money (Seed Money) Scheme under Additional Employment Programme and State Subsidies Scheme are two most potent schemes for the desired growth of the Sector. The progressive increase in the disbursement of fund under these two schemes is as follows:

Sl. No.	Name of the Scheme	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
1.	Margin Money Loan	Rs.31.18 lakh	Rs.53.88 lakh	Rs.80.98 lakh
2.	State Incentives Schemes	Rs.76.30 lakh	Rs.79.72 lakh	Rs.217.53 lakh

In 1984-85 the sanction from financial institutions as term loan and working capital rose to Rs.5464 lakhs as against Rs.3,946.43 in 1982-83. The investment has created job opportunities for more than 67,000 persons in 1984-85 in Cottage and Small Scale Industries Sector.

Small Industries Development Agency

This is a much needed "One-Window Agency" to help entrepreneurs implement their projects (with investment over two lakhs in each case) within a time-frame. Since its inception in 1983-84, a total number of 291 proposals involving total project cost of Rs.58 crore have been received (upto March 1985). Out of them, as on that date, 41 Units already went into production. 80 other Units were scheduled to commence production soon.

The West Bengal Small Industries Corporation Ltd

The West Bengal Small Industries Corporation Limited engaged in procurement and distribution of raw materials also provides infrastructural and marketing facilities to SSI Units. It has also taken up schemes for setting up industrial projects and implementing the I.R.B.I. scheme of providing assistance to sick units. Under its marketing scheme the Corporation marketed during 1984-85 Rs. 120 lakhs worth of SSI products thereby benefiting about 400 SSI units. Under the IRBI

programme for assisting sick units the Corporation has extended loans amounting to Rs.32.14 lakhs to 7 sick units during 1984-85. The Corporation is also setting up, under its industrial projects programme, two China Clay washeries in Birbhum and Bankura Districts in the Public Sector and one Cement substitute manufacturing unit in the joint sector in Purulia District; another joint Sector project for manufacturing fly ash bricks at Bandel has been taken up for implementation.

Handicrafts

The Cottage and Small Scale Industries Directorate and the West Bengal Handicrafts Development Corporation are the two agencies which help the State artisans in upgrading their skills and having markets for their products. The main thrust is on marketing support and product development. During last two years All India Handicrafts Exhibition were organised in Calcutta Maidan. Similarly Lexpo for the marketing of leather products were also held in Calcutta. There are 10 permanent emporia spread over West Bengal and some other States. W.B.H.D.C. markets West Bengal handicrafts after directly procuring them from the artisans. Marketing assistance has proved to be quite effective as will be evident from the turnover of the W.B.H.D.C.:



Training in handicrafts

In 1980-81 the turnover of this Corporation was about 65 lakhs and the same has risen to 135 lakhs in 1984-85. The artisans in some crafts are also helped by supplying raw materials. West Bengal Handicrafts Development Corporation brings conch-shells from Fisheries Department of Tamil Nadu and distributes the same among 60,000 conch-shell artisans of West Bengal at fair price. WBHDC also procures wool and supply it to 7 co-operatives engaged in weaving carpet in Darjeeling district.

Training & Product Development in Handicrafts

Artisans in selected crafts are given training for upgrading their skills. 30 artisans have recently been given training in brass and bell-metal. Subsequently a common facility-cum-service centre has been set up at Nabadwip for them. Now two carpet weaving training centres—one at Bijanbari and the other at Kalimpong-II are imparting training to 60 women of backward community.

Handloom

In our country Handloom is only second to agriculture in offering mass employment. In 1982-83, there were 2,56,566 handlooms providing employment to 7,10,026 persons.

The strategy for development of this sector is to bring increasing number of handloom artisans within the cooperative fold so that

the necessary back-up support by way of supply of yarn, designs, provision of dyeing facilities, market-assistance etc. can be provided. As a result of various measures undertaken by this department, there has been spectacular growth in handloom. Effective cooperative coverage has risen to 92,000 looms at the end of 1984-85 from 49,200 looms at the beginning of the sixth plan. In cooperative sector, two cooperative spinning mills—one at Bankura and the other at Midnapore district are coming up. The remarkable growth in this area transpires from the increased turnover of the Apex Society from Rs. 25.44 crore in 1983-84 to Rs. 30 crore in 1984-85. Similarly, the West Bengal Handloom & Powerloom Development Corporation has increased its turnover from Rs. 6.03 crore in 1983-84 to Rs. 7.60 crore in 1984-85. The production of handloom fabrics has gone up from 2070 lakh metres in 1976-77 to 3740 lakh metres in 1984-85.

As per the latest report, 7.5 lakh persons are directly engaged in handloom sector. The development activities in this sector in 1984-85 resulted in the generation of new employment opportunities for 35,000 persons.

Sericulture

Sericulture is the most important agro-based cottage industry in our State. In terms of acreage, West Bengal ranks 4th in the country while her position rises to No. 3 if we

take into account the production of raw silk. Again, in terms of yield per acre, West Bengal ranks 1st in the country. So far, 15,000 acres of additional land have been put under improved strains of mulberry. The task of expanding sericulture activities in the non-traditional districts of Naida, Cooch Behar and 24-Parganas has been taken up. In the non-mulberry sector, the programme of 'Eri' rearing and reeling has been successfully implemented in Jalpaiguri district while Tasar expansion programme is being continued in Bankura, Midnapur and Purulia districts. Production of raw silk reached 7.17 lakh kgs. and the programmes of the sericulture sector created 10,000 new jobs in rural areas in 1984-85.



Health & Family Welfare

The salient features of the health measures of the Left Front Government are: priority given to rural health, emphasis on the preventive measures of diseases, primary health measures for everybody and to implement these programmes, training and recruitment of multi-purpose health workers and above all, to launch a movement for implementing a powerful health programme with the active cooperation of the people.

Among the important steps towards this goal, taking over of the management of different private hospitals, setting up of State General Hospitals, increase of number of beds in district and sub-divisional hospitals, improvement of Emergency Wards of hospitals, extension of visiting hours of outdoor patients etc. are worth-mentioning. In the Medical College hospital of Calcutta number of beds have been increased, modern and improve equipments and machinery have been added and Emergency Wards have been expanded and improved. In Government hospitals X-ray clinic is made operative round

the clock and blood banks and heart examination system have been started. In each ward of Calcutta for preventive measures and primary treatment 'Urban Health Scheme' will be introduced soon.

Proper stress has been laid on the Malaria Eradication programme. In malaria-prone areas all round effort has been made to detect the disease and cure it, to spray insecticides, distribute medicine through Panchayats in remote villages etc.

Seventy per cent of the affected people have been brought under the Leprosy Eradication Organisation and the whole population of the district of Purulia have been brought under the Multi Drug Regimen.

Under the Chairmanship of the Chief Minister the Implementation Committee (Leprosy) are working to implement the National Leprosy Prevention Scheme. For the prevention of T.B., chest clinics have been started in some district and sub-divisional health centres. About 14 lakh tribals of Contai, Midnapore, Bankura, Behrampur, Suri, Bolpur, Durgapur, Budge Budge, Bishnupur and English Bazar municipal towns have been brought under the National Filaria Prevention Scheme.

Under the Community Health Development Project, 42,000 trained health guides are now working in the rural areas. One Health guide for each village will be appointed very soon.

They are maintaining a liaison between the people and the Health Care Centres. Field workers are going to be recruited for checking up pregnant women. Village midwife training scheme is to be started so that each mother can get help from trained female workers in time of delivery.

For the successful implementation of family welfare programme, West Bengal has been awarded second prize worth of Rs. 1 crore by the Government of India. At present, the State Government along with setting up more family welfare camps and through further expansion of Panchayats and voluntary and democratic organisations are taking steps to encourage active couples to plan their families by adopting modern methods. In the river strewn Sunderban area two vessels have been commissioned with all necessary instruments and accessories to implement family welfare measures and child welfare programme and for detection of different diseases in those remote rural areas. In 1976-77, a total number of 3,44,551 people had been brought under the Family Welfare Programme while in 1984-85 the number has been increased to 4,27,117. Vigorous attempts are being made to better the performance and to reach the target by 2,000 A.D.

This year a Rs. 106 crore plan namely India Population Project has been sanctioned for West Bengal for the period of 1985-90. Dis-

districts of Bankura, Birbhum, Burdwan and Purulia are brought under this Plan. The objective of this Plan is the health promotion of rural people and strengthening of organisational structure for proper health care in the districts along with training scheme for Medical and paramedical workers. For the slum dwellers under the C.M.D.A. area, the State Government with the assistance from C.M.D.A. have taken up another project namely C.U.D.P.-3 so that these people can have easy access to health measures.

The target to set up 10 to 60 bedded one Primary Health Centre and 2 to 10 bedded two or three subsidiary Health Centres in each Panchayat Samiti area in West Bengal has been reached. From 1977 to 1984 the State Government set up 29 Primary Health Centres, 70 Health Centres and 18 Rural Hospitals and in 1984-85, 1,489 sub-centres have been opened. So there will be total 6,004 sub-centres in West Bengal now. Altogether the number of total Health Centres has increased from 2,058 in 1976 to 7,156 in 1984. In 1976 the number of hospitals in rural and urban areas was 343, in 1984 it increased to 402.

In 1976, there were 52,624 beds in all hospitals, the number has increased to 62,750 now.

In the Post-graduate stage of Medical course, selected candidates will have Rs.650/-

as honorarium per month and they will be provided clinical attachment to their concerned colleges and hospitals.

The State Government with a view to streamlining the Homoeopathy Medical Course have taken over the management of three Homoeopathic colleges. Ayurvedic and Yunani treatments also have been brought under the Medicine and Cosmetics Control Act.

Progress of Health Departments Activities from 1976-1984

No. of hospital	position at end of 1976	position at end of 1984
Urban	340	382
Rural	2	20
Total	342	402
Health Centres		
Primary Health Centre	335	335
Subsidiary Health Centre	718	817
Sub-Centre	1005	6004
Total	2058	7150
Hospital beds		
Urban	35891	42750
Rural	16733	20000
Total	52624	62750

No. of hospital	position at end of 1976	position at end of 1984
Special Clinics		
Chest Clinic	116	123
Dental Clinic	121	211
Psychiatric Clinic	7	9
Mobile dispensary	—	23
No. of non-Government hospitals taken over by Government	20	38
Birth and death rates per thousand population		
Birth rate	35	33
Death rate	10.3	10.3
Infant mortality rate	86.5	82.0
No. of Health guides Trained	—	42000
(The Scheme was introduced on 2.2.77)		
Multipurpose Health Workers Scheme		
No of distincts given coverage	5	15
No. of training Centre	—	2.6
No. of Sub centres		
Sanctioned	—	9070
Established	—	6004
No. of Trained Supervisor		
Workers	—	11507
Doctors	152	600
T.B. and Mental Clinic		
T.B. Beds	4630	5942
T.B. Clinics	116	120
Mental Beds	1240	1660
Leprosy Control		
Control Units	39	43
S.E.T. Centre	350	704
Regional Centre	8	13
Training Centre	2	4
Prevention and Control of blindness		
Regional Centre	—	1
Medical College Upgraded	—	4

No. of hospital	position at end of 1976	position at end of 1984
District Hospital Upgraded	—	15
PHC Upgraded	—	100
Training Centre for Ophthalmic Assistants	—	3
Family Planning Programme		
Sterilisation	88,258	2,71,486
I.U.D.	27,686	45,920
Diet rate per patient per day		
General bed	Rs. 2.50	Rs. 4.00
T.B. bed	Rs. 3.00	4.50
Homoeopathic system of Medicine		
No. of State Dispensary	34	155
No. of Gram Panchayat Dispensary	1	421
No. of Homoeopathic Doctors at the P.H.C.	—	125
No. of Homoeopathic Doctors at the S.H.C.	135	135
No. of Degree Colleges taken over by Government	—	2
No. of Drug Production for Homoeopathic and Ayurvedic medicine	—	1
Stipend		
Internee	Rs. 275 per month	Rs. 450 per month
Junior House Staff	Rs. 400 per month	Rs. 550 per month
Senior House Staff	Rs. 500 per month	Rs. 600 per month
Nurses Training Centre		
No. of Seats in B.Sc. (Nursing) Course	20	25
No. of Seats in Condensed (Nursing) Course	—	25

PRIMARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION

All round progress of any community largely depends on the input on education. In 1951 the number of illiterates was 30 crores in India and after 30 years of independence it increased to 45 crores. When the State Governments spent 20 percent of their Budget for Education, the Centre spent only 1 percent. As a consequence, 40 percent of illiterates of the world are now Indians. In spite of so many odds, the Left Front Government has put high priority on education and by achieving a spectacular success set up an example for others in the last eight years. The policy of the Left Front Govt. is to make education universal and life-oriented.

The State Government during the year 1983-84, set up 1200 primary schools and 250 Junior High Schools. At the end of 1984-85, the State had about 50,000 primary schools with an enrolment of 78.15 lakhs, 3,885 Junior High Schools and 5,653 High Schools. The enrolment in classes VI to VIII in Junior High &

High Schools exceeded 26 lakhs by 1984-85. 4,050 new teaching posts in the Primary Schools and 8,000 in the secondary sector have been created in 1983-84 from the State budget. More than 2.63 crores have been invested in repair/reconstruction of school buildings. The following table will show the increase in enrolment:

Enrolment (in lakh)

	1976-77	1979-80	1980-81	1981-82	1982-83	1983-84	1984-85
Age 6 to 11	59.00	63.99	65.95	67.99	70.13	73.75	78.15
Age 11 to 14	14.11	16.84	18.43	19.10	21.50	23.85	26.22

The additional enrolment targets for the year 1984-85 were set at 3,30,000 for the age group 6 to 11 and 2,50,000 for the age group 11 to 14 in consultation with the Planning Commission. The targets have been exceeded. In fact, in the field of primary education West Bengal has already reached the target that has been set for all-India for the year 1990.

In 1984 & 1985 academic years, 52 nationalised Text Books have been printed and distributed to 83 lakh Primary Students of this State and there is a proposal to spend Rs.6 crores on this account. Arrangement has been made to publish books in Hindi, Urdu, Nepali and Santhali (in Alchiki) languages in addition to the books in Bengali. There is a proposal to print and distribute 10 new books in Hindi,



Urdu, Nepali and Santhali languages for classes III and VI during the 1985-86 financial year.

About 29 lakh students are at present covered under the nutrition schemes. There is a proposal to re-organise this scheme in 1985-86 and to distribute cooked food wherever feasible through central kitchens. In addition the CARE nutrition scheme is also being implemented in this State. Besides, arrangement has been made for sports and games at the Circle, District and State level as a part of the incentive programme. In addition, the government will endeavour to provide school dresses to all scheduled caste and scheduled tribe girl students and 40% general girl students in rural areas.

Madrasah Education

There are two kinds of Madrasah in West Bengal (1) Junior High & (2) High Madrasah. They are at par with Secondary schools. During 1985-86 a proposal for recognition of 10 Junior High Madrasah & upgradation of 30 Junior High Madrasah to High Madrasah is under consideration of Government. By introducing free Madrasah education and by revision of its syllabus to suit the needs of time the State Government has ushered a basic change in Madrasah education. Necessary steps have been taken to transform the West Bengal Madrasah Education Board into an autonomous organisation.

Secondary school

During the last year (1984-85) the number of students in the Secondary school has increased by about three lakhs. During the years 1983-84 and 1984-85, 500 new secondary schools have been established and about 400 schools upgraded. 8,000 posts of additional teachers have been created.

Higher Secondary school

At the Higher Secondary stage also there has been an unprecedented increase in the number of students. During the year 1984-85 more than 10,000 additional students have been enrolled at this stage. 34 new Higher Secondary schools have been established.

Education for the handicapped

The Government is determined to give proper education to the handicapped children of this state with sympathy and by adoption of a modern educational system. During the year 1984-85 two new institutions have been brought under Government Sponsorship and two other new institutions have been given recognition.

Library services

For uplifting the standard of library services a seminar was held centrally at Government initiative in October 1984. A Library service Training Centre (certificate course) has been started at Kalimpong in November 1984. Another such training centre has been

started at the Banipur Janata College.

Non-formal education

Non-formal education is a part of the total scheme for universalisation of Education. Upto 1984-85 the State Government could open about 18,000 Non-formal Education centres with 4.56 lakh beneficiaries of whom about 2 lakh are girls. Syllabus for this scheme has been finalised and books for rural and urban areas have been printed. Those would be distributed before the next term. To improve the quality of non-formal education, administrative arrangement of supervision have been strengthened both at Directorate level and District level. The District level committees have been so constituted as to ensure involvement of Panchayats and local bodies. Non-formal education instructors have been oriented till date.

HIGHER EDUCATION

The Left Front Government during its eight year tenure has been able to set up a model of education in the country by pursuing a specific education policy by emphasising that education is the most vital investment in the progress of the nation. The State Government does not consider education a non-productive sector and as such it has been increasing its budget estimates on education every year.

The budget estimates on education during 1983-84 was Rs.418 crores and the same stood respectively at Rs.459 crores and Rs.520 crores during 1984-85 and 1985-86. Of the State's total budget about 23 per cent has been earmarked for education every year. On the contrary, the Centre spends on education a mere one percent of its annual budgetary estimates. It clearly deviates from the Gandhian concept of planning according to which an amount of ten percent of the total budget need to be set aside for education.

Education is closely bound up with proper environment. The educational atmosphere in

the State till 1976 was in doldrums. Indiscipline and mass copying vitiated the entire atmosphere. Anti-socials took control of all the educational institutions. The Left Front Government during the last eight years has freed the educational institutions from this chaotic condition. An academic atmosphere has been created all over the State. For this, the students, teachers and other employees have had a definite role. A section of them, as has been noticed recently, is however, politically motivated to disturb the situation. The Left Front Govt. firmly believes that the united move by the grater section of students, teachers and staff, who are against the onset of chaotic condition in educational institutions, would foil the attempts of these disruptive forces.

For some time past, it has been persistently projected that a section of the so-called intellectuals was only capable of giving direction to higher education. Institutions like Managing Committees of the colleges, Senates of the Universities etc. turned to be the drawing rooms for the highbrows. The Left Front Government has replaced this privileged class with the elected representatives of intellectuals. Representation has now been ensured for the students, teachers, staff and even for the labourers and farmers. The elected representatives should be in charge of implementing higher education. Elected

representatives constitute 74% of the Senate of the Calcutta University. During the last eight years the Left Front Government has been trying to democratise the management of education. The Union Government, on the other hand tends to centralise education. According to the Visva Bharati University Act, adopted recently in the Lok Sabha, 95% members of the Sangsad would be selected by the Central Government.

The Left Front Government despite its limited scope has been trying to make education meaningful and significant. In some spheres, education has been made job-oriented. It is the Left Front Government which has endeavoured to relate education with social needs. Therefore, special emphasis has been laid on scientific and technical education. Two technical institutions at Contai and Raigunge are going to be opened in the next year. New subjects like pisciculture would be introduced in these institutions.

Efforts are being made to establish the State's fifth engineering college either at Kalyani or at Salt Lake by 1986. The Vidyasagar University has been formally opened on June 1, 1985. In India, it is the only university which is meant for non-traditional education.

The sincere efforts of the Left Front Government towards the progress of the higher education in the State have posed a threat to the reactionaries. They have, therefore, been

raising acrimonious hue and cry to create obstacles to the endeavour of the government. But our firm conviction would dishearten them and ultimately they like others would also support the policies and programmes adopted by the government.



An examination being held

Library and non-formal education

During the last thirty years only 776 libraries were there in West Bengal. In the last 8 years 1645 libraries have come into being. The statutory library Act in West Bengal came into effect only on 12th September, 1979.

Till 1984 the total number of libraries among the 22 states and 9 Centrally administered states is 13,350. Of this the number of public libraries in West Bengal is 2421 which is highest. West Bengal possesses 21.4 per cent of the total number of libraries in India.

In 1978-79 under the plan allotment the expenditure for all the libraries in the State was only Rs. 28 lakh and 50 thousand and in 1984-85 five and half crore rupees more have been spent under plan and non-plan heads. More money has been allotted under different heads.

West Bengal, more than any other state, has brought the libraries within the reach of the common people. This state has fostered the democratic management system for libraries, which has helped in the total library service. Though all the posts in the district

libraries could not be filled up, in 8 districts the posts had been created and in the remaining ones dues are being filled up.

Book fairs are being regularly organised in the different districts of West Bengal during the last five years. These fairs serve as the meeting place for the various local cultures.

Left Front Government is also very conscious about the selection and purchase of books. List for the purchase of books are published from the State Central library. A recent list contains titles in English, Hindi, Nepalese language and Urdu a part from in Bengali. Of this almost 21 per cent of books are meant for the children and the adolescents. Only 30 per cent of the Government allotment is to be spent for books catering for local needs and the remaining 70 per cent can be spent for the purchase of any books according to the requirements of the libraries concerned. Books, detrimental to the unity and integrity of the country and communal or secessionist in character cannot, however, be purchased. Libraries, thus participate in our national fight against all sorts of separatism—in the form of selection of books.

Today, interest in the library science is on the increase. Now training centres for the librarians have been started at Banipur and Kalimpong. Pay scales for the library personnel have doubled. They have been assured of security in their employment. Those who had

A public library



retired from service after 1.4.81 were granted retirement allowance and gratuity like the teachers. Steps have been taken to remove difficulties in the implementation of the Library Act.

Non-formal education:

It has been possible to extend the non-formal education for children in the age-group of 9 to 14 as part of mass education. The formal system of education could not reach education to all sections of people. It was declared that by 1990 no person in India would be without the benefit of primary education. And yet, the country has 67 per cent of illiterate people. The socio-economic reason is at the root of the problem. As such, persons living below the poverty line can hardly hope for education. After somehow becoming a literate person one in this country gets employed as a labourer or in a tea shop or in a restaurant or a hotel. Some people again never attend a school. Non-formal education was planned for those tender children who had little or no education and had to do drudgery for sheer survival—this education would attempt to make them literate and educated in order to be of worth for the social life. This non-formal education would also attempt to bring its pupils to the fold of the formal education. In 1979-80 there were 3208 non formal education centres in West Bengal. The number of such

centres has since increased to almost 18,000. And the amount of honorarium has been slightly enhanced to accomodate the volunteer teachers for teaching purposes. It is encouraging to note that while in 1979-80 the number of students in these centres was 49,200 it is almost 4,50,000 at present. Rampant poverty, however, forbids these students to step into the mainstream of formal school education. According to a survey, less than 10 per cent of the total number of trainees could avail of the institutional education.

Of late, syllabus suitable for urban and rural students has been prepared. Books have also been published and distributed to the centres. Syllabus, which is aimed at imparting practical training in social realities combining the everyday social life with one's own experiences of it, is a very complex and long-drawn process. It does not aim at making 'instruments by forcing an incongruent education system on them. For the running of these large number of Centres managing committes have been formed at the state and the district level. Panchayat and municipal bodies are also being considered for involvement in these committees.

It is necessary to interlink the various media of mass education along with the present-day libraries. And a more efficient structure is needed for the smooth management, supervision and analysis for the imple-

mentation of the main purpose of mass education. It is needless to stress the importance of library to the 67 per cent of illiterate people. Love for library can come only with the withering away of illiteracy.

These problems are all inter-related and the government is well aware of it. There are many a library which suffer from want of building, book or from management problems. In some cases, however, social goodwill is lacking. There is again the problem of organising a library suitable for the rural people. With the constraints of a state all the financial problems cannot be solved overnight. Similarly, a mechanical approach cannot transform the overall administration of the libraries in West Bengal. From the administration level to the ordinary library worker the flow is not smooth, which is the result of the existing social system. But the great enthusiasm and good turn that have occurred in the field of mass education must be carried forward by every right-thinking man and institution. Efforts are being made for the efficient administration of the media for mass education such as the libraries and the non-formal education, but the future of these efforts lies in the hands of the common people.

SOCIAL WELFARE

To rehabilitate the handicapped persons within the broader framework of the society, facilities have been created in the vocational training centres of Bardhaman, Hooghly and Calcutta. During the last few years Government has provided (a) disablement allowance, (b) equipment for helping the handicapped persons in their physical movements and activities, (c) rewards to the distinguished handicapped persons and their employers, (d) stipends to the handicapped students reading in the classes below IX, (e) economic rehabilitation of the handicapped persons, (f) financial aids by the government to the voluntary organisations engaged in the welfare of the handicapped. In this year 745 handicapped persons have been given aid equipment, 553 handicapped students given stipends, 3403 persons given disablement allowances, and 350 handicapped persons brought under economic rehabilitation project. At Cooch Behar Home has been developed and expanded in the interest of the blind children and at Raigunge for those deaf

and dumb. 2 per cent vacant posts under the government and government aided institutions have been reserved for handicapped.

40 women are being given training in the manufacture of T.V. sets in West Bengal Electronic Industries Development Corporation Ltd., a public undertaking, under a project in collaboration with Norwegian Agency for International Development.

4 hostels for working girls have come up in Calcutta and Asansol. 4 more are under construction in different municipalities and towns.

Towards welfare of the people of the backward classes 10,000 smokeless ovens have been constructed in the villages and 20,000 more are coming up soon. Five Homes for the destitute girls at Uttarpara, Medinipur, Purulia, Cooch Behar, Howrah and six Homes at Krishnagar, Calcutta, Bardhaman, Malda and Howrah for the women having tendencies to go astray have been opened. Towards economic rehabilitation of destitute women needle-work and embroidery training centres have been functioning in 76 blocks. 3,800 women receive training every year and each gets a stipend of Rs. 50/- per month. The Government spends Rs. 5 million a year on account of this project, and bears one-third of the expenditure on the 12 projects being run in the broder areas for the welfare of children and women. Apart from this residential ser-

vice project, 7200 destitute widows are being given pension or allowance of Rs. 30/- per head per month under the non-residential service project. A Home for accommodating 100 destitute women have been opened at Krishnagar by west Bengal Social Welfare Board with the financial assistance of the government.

Improvement of Child health and maternity relief are the two major objects of the Integrated Child Development Service Scheme. Starting in 1976 with only two projects, the scheme has now 110 projects including 16 run absolutely by the State Government. Out of these 110 projects, 14 are in the urban slum areas, whereas 69 are in the rural areas and 27 in the tribal areas. Under these projects, 9500 women have already been appointed as workers and almost equal number of indigent women as assistants. All of the 600 supervisors are graduates. 1.4 million children, expecting and nursing mothers are being benefited through these projects. More than 3 lakhs of children and expecting mothers have been receiving benefits through special nutrition projects. More than 300 destitute boys are being accommodated in the Homes opened at Birbhum, 24-Parganas, Jalpaiguri and Murshidabad districts. Homes for girls are functioning at Purulia, Medinipur, Hooghly and Cooch Behar. Each inmates receive Rs. 1000 in cash while leaving Home. 52 voluntary



Girls being trained in sewing at a welfare centre

organisations under 'cottage' scheme and 24 under 'capitation' scheme have been rearing up 5,876 children. 3700 children are being benefited in 74 balwadi centres under the auspices of West Bengal Social Welfare Board. Expenditure per destitute child being reared up in the government and private Homes have been increased—(α) Rs. 81.50 P. in the cottage project, (2) Rs. 57.50 P. in the committed cottage project and (3) Rs. 48.50 P. in the capitation project.

There is an Old Age Home for Men at South Garia and another is coming up in the same campus for women. 30,000 old men and women have been receiving Rs. 30/- per head under the Old Age Pension Scheme. 2400 persons are being accommodated and trained in different vagrant's homes. Homes at Howrah Andul Raod and at Murshidabad have been expanded at a cost of Rs. 4 millions to provide 400 more vagrants. Chhu-ti, a home for destitute children has been opened at Digha.

6 homes and 14 correctional homes under the law for delinquent children are in operation with total accommodation of 1110 children.

Relief

Almost every year after the Left Front Government came to power, the Department of Relief & Welfare had to encounter unprecedented floods, drought and tornado.

In June 1977 incessant rainfall caused heavy inundation in 11 districts of West Bengal. Before the relief and rehabilitation work could be completed, the devastating flood havoc of 1978 almost shattered the rural and urban life of the state. The year 1979 brought further drought in some districts and flood and erosion came in 1980. An unprecedented tornado hit many areas of Districts 24 Parganas and Midnapore resulting huge loss of life and property. Before the state could recover from these damages, there came an unprecedented drought in 1983 which caused widespread damages to the rural areas of the state and consequently sufferings to millions of people. The worst victim was the production of paddy and in the last 27 years such a loss in its production has never occurred.

In 1983-84 people had to suffer a lot from tornado, hailstorm, erosion and flood. In 1984-85 the excessive rainfall in June set up a

record for the last century and the flood that followed up to September threw millions of people in gruesome misery.

Obviously these repeated occurrences of natural calamities caused intolerable sufferings for rural masses. Credit goes to the State Government that in spite of so many odds it had been able to ameliorate their sufferings by arranging prompt and effective relief to them. The total expenditure incurred by the State Govt. in relief measures in all these years amounted to Rs.176,49,14,000, that is, more than Rs.22 crores annually.

For helping the rural masses to earn with their labour during the lean months, 'the food for work' programme was implemented successfully by the State Government, from 1977-78 to 1980-81 for this programme and from 1981-82 to 1984-85 for Rural Employment Scheme, the State Government spent Rs.51,07,20,000 and distributed 3 lakh M.T. or rice and wheat. Apart from removing the poor rural masses from distress, those measures created huge permanent assets in those areas.

From 1977-78 to 1984-85 through these programmes 77,562 old roads were renovated, 5420 new roads were constructed, 4,820 canals and ponds were excavated or renovated, 22,731 small irrigation schemes were implemented, 4,527 embankments were renovated and 13,45,000 houses destroyed in



Road construction under food for work programme

floods were either reconstructed or repaired and about 20 thousand other schemes also were implemented.

In October 1984 after the murder of the Late Prime Minister, 10 Shikhs were killed in the disturbances. The Relief Department granted Rs.10,000 for each bereaved family and Rs.10,000 to the family of a woman who was killed in the police firing. Besides, arrangements were made so that the affected persons could receive Bank loans on easy instalments.

For the West Bengal branch of the International Red Cross, the State Government allotted 11 acres of land in Bidhan Nagar worth Rs.53,24,000 for setting up a Regional Relief Fund and Training Centre there.

With a view to offering temporary shelter to the flood or tornado-affected people, the Relief Department with the financial assistance from the European Economic Committee, would set up 85 permanent Relief Camps in 10 flood-and-storm-prone districts. The work of 80 such Relief Camps had been completed.

For Relief measures and arranging temporary shelter to the refugees coming from Assam, the Relief Department had spent more than Rs.4 crores and also did a lot for their rehabilitation in their own state.

Food and Supplies

The major function of the Department of Food and Supplies is to maintain a regular supply of rice, wheat, sugar and some necessary consumer goods among people at fair price and on the basis of minimum demand and to run the public distribution system.

Before 1977 one-fifth of the population of this state was covered by the statutory rationing system under which rice, wheat and sugar used to be supplied. In the rural areas modified rationing was operative where these items had limited supply. The Left Front Government after coming to power in 1977 recommended rationing of 14 Consumer Goods. This government has introduced distribution of pulse, edible oil, toilet and washing soaps, Janata sari, exercise books, matches, candle, spice-powder, kerosene, cement (levied) etc. not only in the statutory rationing area but in the modified rationing areas also. For the regular supply of most of the essential commodities this State has to depend on the Centre and other States. As the Food Corporation of India sometimes fails to supply the required commodities in time and



A ration Shop

also due to laxity of the Railway system, the public distribution system sometimes gets partially dislocated.

Upto 1973 60 p.c. of the population of this State possessed ration cards. Almost everybody has a ration card now and as a result of introduction of individual ration cards the poor people can draw their ration individually.

In order that the people of farflung areas of rural Bengal can secure the benefit of public distribution system the Left Front Government has opened permanent bodies at the level of Zilla Parishad and Panchayat Samity and Standing Committees at the level of municipalities. In addition, from February 1984 the Government has been distributing edible oil at fair price as the demand for such item is very high not only in rural areas but in urban areas as well.

Through Public distribution system in 1982 28 lakh tons, in 1983 29 lakh tons and in 1984 22 lakh tons foodstuff have been distributed.

Under the fold of Food and Supplies Department West Bengal Essential Commodities Supply Corporation was formed to facilitate distribution and some of the essential items supplied by the Corporation are rice, pulses, edible oil, cement and salt. This Corporation is one of the few State Government undertakings running at a profit.

At a glance	Food & Supplies	
	1976-77	1985-86
1. Annual Budget	Rs. 16,91,19,000	Rs. 32,34,60,000
2. No Statutory rationshops	2,714	2,731
3. No. of modified rationshops	15,099	16,000
4. Quantity of cereals distributed through public distribution	16,12,500 m.t.	22 lakh m.t.
5. Supply of edible oil	800 m.t.	105.7 thousand M.T.
6. Kerosene	3,49,410 m.t.	5.27 lakh m.t. (in 1984)
7. Sugar		2.98 m.t. (in 1984).

Under the policy of the Central Government the prices of essential commodities and petroleum products are increasing. F.C.I. also wants to increase the price of rice and wheat to meet its expenses. Under the circumstances the State Government even accepting loss of Rs.1 crore has decided to raise the price of rice and wheat under rationing as minimum as possible.

Rise and fall of price index depend on planning and policy of the Union Government. So the Left Front Government has asked the Central Government to fix an All India price for the essential commodities. For this reason, the Central Govt. should pay necessary subsidies to all the States.

In West Bengal the cost of living is still the lowest in the country. And for that matter West Bengal can boast of a wide-scale organised public distribution system catering to the needs of remotest rural population. But without public cooperation it is impossible for the Government to hold the price line.

INDUSTRY

At the time of independence of the country West Bengal was in the forefront of industrial development. There is no doubt that this position had gone down in subsequent years, and the decline had started as early as in the fifties. There are many reasons for this decline. Freight equalisation and telescopic structure, followed by the Union Government, which led to serious discrimination against all the states of eastern India in respect of raw materials for industry, the reluctance on the part of private sector people in ploughing back a portion of their profit earned from West Bengal in new investments in the State and in modernisation of their own units, the refusal of the Union Government to invest money in major industries in the State, including electronics and petro-chemicals, since 1965-66, except of course, two recent investments in Coal Gas project at Dankuni and Export Processing Zone at Falta, the deliberate attempt to decrease orders from the Railways and other Central agencies for industries in the State, refusal on the part of the Union Government in giving licenses for industries in West Bengal on many occa-

sions, and luke-warm attitude of banks and other financial institutions for giving money to industries here are all very much responsible for the present state of things.

In this way deliberate attempts have been made to destroy industries in West Bengal. But the Left Front Government of the State has not taken it lying down. The Government has tried all these eight years it has been in power to stop the downward trend and to give a boost to industrial development in the State. After many years of stagnation, the process for industrial development has now started again.

If the figures of last few years are taken into consideration it will be seen that, though slow, there has been a marked trend in the upward development of industry in the State. The quantum of investment is increasing here, more industries are being attracted by Incentive Scheme, 1983 and the number of industrial licenses is also increasing. In comparison with Rs. 20.02 crores in 1982-83, the assistance from the W.B.I.D.C. for industries in the State had gone up to Rs. 23.06 crores in 1984-85, In Incentive Schemes the amount spent in 1982-83 was Rs. 4.16 crores, but in 1984-85 it went up to Rs. 7.20 crores. The I.D.B.I. refinance for 1984-85 was Rs. 7.01 crores as against Rs. 5.29 crores in 1982-83. In comparison with 1983 the number of industrial licenses in 1984 went up by 10%, and the

number of industrial approvals also went up from 224 in 1983 to 250 in 1984.

PETRO-CHEMICAL

The two big incidents that took place in the month of May this year—the inauguration of a big electronics unit by the Philips and two more similar units of WEBEL group of companies in Salt Lake on 14th May, and the signing of a Rs. 645 crore joint sector project for Haldia Petro-Chemicals between the Petro-Chemicals Division of the W.B.I.D.C. and Shri R.P. Goenka and his son Shri Sanjiv Goenka on 22nd May, suddenly changed the industrial climate of West Bengal, and everybody is now thinking that the State is now definitely on the way of industrial recovery.

The people of West Bengal waited for a long time for Electronics at Salt Lake and Petro-Chemicals at Haldia and it was their expectation that the Union Government would participate in a big way in both these projects. But the Centre decided not to do anything with either of these projects. Naturally, therefore, the people of the State thought that these projects would not be implemented at all, and these would remain just campaign points for the Left Front in their fight against Central discrimination against West Bengal. As against this background, when they came to know suddenly that, in spite of non-cooperation from the Centre, both these projects had come to reality they were very much

delighted, though with an element of surprise. And, the Left Front Government did it.

ELECTRONICS

In the first phase of 40 acres of Salt Lake Electronics Complex the commercial production has already started in some units, the construction for some other units is in good progress, and the entire land in this complex has already been allotted. In the second phase of 93 acres of Salt Lake Electronics Complex the work has also started and allotment of land, construction of buildings etc. will start within next few months. The response from the entrepreneurs, national and foreign, and also from the Non-Resident Indians, both small and large units, for this complex is very encouraging. It is expected that very soon this complex will develop itself as one of the best electronics complexes in the country. Not only in Salt Lake in Calcutta, it has been decided that in the districts also similar electronics complexes will be developed.

The total investment in the revised Petro-Chemical Project for Haldia will be Rs.645 crores. The direct recruitment in the project will be about 2500, but in its downstream ancillary projects the employment potential will be about 2 lakhs. The State Government has already spent about Rs.5.5 crores for this project. It is expected that within a year and



Tea processing unit in Darjeeling

half some units will start production here and the entire project will be completed within a period of about 5 years.

Along with the Export Processing Zone at Falta, which is coming up very rapidly, these two important projects of Electronics and Petro-Chemicals have definitely boosted up the climate in West Bengal, and the entrepreneurs are coming up to invest more here.

In the context of these new developments in the field of industrialisation of the State it is necessary to say a few words very clearly about the industrial policy of the Left Front Government.

INDUSTRIAL POLICY

It would be wrong to suggest that the Left Front Government does not put emphasis on public sector. The government is very much for public sector. Out of the thirteen taken-over industrial units for which the State Government was appointed authorised Controller, three units (Eastern Distilleries, Sri Saraswati Press and National Iron) have been nationalised by the State Government.

But it should be realised that in the peculiar federal set-up of the country today the scope for the expansion of public sector undertakings in the State is very limited. The State Government has very limited resources and there are priority sectors for public expenditure in the state like education, health, irrigation. construction of roads, power, etc. before

industry. It is, therefore, almost impossible to have a big programme for expansion of public sector with budgetary support. The banks and financial institutions are definitely there wherefrom more assistance may come. But, unfortunately, in West Bengal, we do not get much money for our industries from these institutions. In such a peculiar situation only the private sector can do something for industry here if they really want to do so. Because of this reason the Left Front Government is trying to encourage the private sector to come forward and invest here.

Wherever necessary, possible and considered socially relevant, the State Government has been entering into joint sector projects with available private sector partners. It is not a new concept for the Left Front Government—it has been following this policy since the beginning of its regime, i.e., 1977. The recent examples of such joint sector ventures are Webel-Nicco in electronics and Haldia Petro-Chemicals with the Goenkas. By participating in a joint sector project the Government does not give the entire thing to private management. In these joint sector projects with the Nicco and the Goenkas, and also with others, the State Government would have 26% of the total share of the Company, and the private party 25%, and the remaining portion of 49% shares would be secured from the open market.

The Left Front Government is definitely against the wide-open entry of foreign companies or multi-national corporations in the industrial fields of the State. But, in high technology areas and where indigenous enterprise is not coming forward, the participation of foreign companies in a limited way, and, of course, subject to the conditions imposed on them, is possible. This is particularly relevant for those companies who have Indianised themselves to a great extent.

An intensive programme of modernisation is necessary for all the traditional and old industries of the State like Jute, Textiles, Chemicals, Engineering and Tea. If we do not do it even now we will be pushed out further from the market by the modernised industries of other States in similar industries and their substitutes. This will lead to further sickness and recession in general. The use of computers should also be encouraged in this context. But if by modernisation or use of computer there is any retrenchment or job shrinkage we are definitely against it.

It is a fact that the condition of most of the public undertakings under State Government management is not good. The units have been in bad condition almost from their very beginning. But the State Government cannot remain silent on this matter. The Government is trying to make these units viable by adopting methods of modernisation, up-

gradation of technology and diversification. The workers of public undertakings have also a definite responsibility in running these units effectively.

INDUSTRIAL SICKNESS

Industrial sickness is now a serious problem for us in the State. A large number of units, small, medium and large, are either sick or closed. Though the problem is not particular to West Bengal alone, it is an all-India phenomenon, we cannot simply shut out our eyes from it. Here also, the main responsibility for sickness lies with the Centre. Freight equalisation, shrinkage of orders from Central agencies, failure on the part of banks and financial institutions in giving money to industries on time are mainly responsible for the sickness. Moreover, the conflicts among the entrepreneurs, family troubles among them, lapses in management, and failure in adopting methods for modernisation and upgradation of technology are also responsible for the sickness. The I.R.C.I., (now I.R.B.I.) was set up by the Centre specifically to take care of the problem of sick units, but the performance of this organisation is also disappointing.

The Left Front Government has already done whatever is possible within its limited power to revive the sick units. The Government has nationalised some of the taken-over units, and is ready to nationalise other units

too. But the condition imposed by the Union Government that the State Government, in nationalising these units, must take the responsibility of pre-take-over liability of Banks and financial institutions in respect of these units in addition to their post-take-over liability is not acceptable to the State Government. The State government is definitely ready to take the responsibility of post-take-over liability and also to pay the amount for compensation under such circumstances, but, why will it accept the responsibility of pre-take over bunglings by private sector owners of these units?

With an improvement in general industrial condition in the State, some private sector parties will also come forward to take charge of some of the sick and closed units. Some of these units can also be run by cooperative societies formed with the workers of these units.

Since the industrial climate in the State is looking up, it is now our responsibility to speed it up in all possible ways. If there is a growth of industries in the State again, this will increase production, accelerate the growth of our economy and can definitely solve our unemployment problem to a great extent.

Transport

The lack of an adequate transport system in West Bengal, particularly in Calcutta, its nerve-centre, is a long-felt want. The Government of West Bengal is determined to remove the sufferings of the commuters as far as practicable with its limited resources by overcoming the existing shortcomings of the transport system. During the past eight years the present Government has taken wide ranging measures for alleviating the transport problem. Although the ever increasing population and other allied factors have been creating mounting pressure on the existing transport system, remarkable progress has already been possible in this regard owing to the all-out efforts of the present Government. Future projects of the Government will, no doubt, assist in achieving the desired targets in this respect.

The Government is trying to improve the transport system in the rural areas simultaneously with that of Calcutta, having regard to the necessity of the concerned people living in remote villages, who have to come to Calcutta and other industrial towns for employment and other reasons.

Out of 660 buses, which are now daily plying under the Calcutta State Transport Corporation on 67 routes, 530 new buses have been procured by the present Government under the Calcutta Urban Transport Project. Everyday, 150 buses ply on 56 long distance routes and the number of buses of the C.S.T.C. for this purpose has increased to 295. In implementing proposal for new bus routes in the urban areas, three new Bus Services have been opened. Besides, another new Bus Service has been opened from Calcutta to Raidighi.

The North Bengal State Transport Corporation and Durgapur State Transport Corporation have played an important role in providing transport links between the rural and the urban areas. The number of running buses of these two organisations has increased significantly and further additions are under consideration. The N.B.S.T.C. purchased 54 new bus chassis during 1984-85. And in 1985-86 it plans to acquire 100 new bus chassis to strengthen the existing fleet.

Apart from the services rendered by the S.T.C.s and the C.T.C., private buses also play a vital role in passenger transport services in Calcutta and the districts. For instance, in the last two years, permits for 1133 private buses and 566 mini buses have been issued in the Calcutta region. The R.T.A. Calcutta region (including 24-

Parganas) has approved 27 new routes for playing of stage carriages during 1984-85. Permanent permits for 642 private buses and temporary permits for 77 private buses have been issued. Besides these, 65 temporary permits for mini buses, 86 temporary permits for contract carriages and 345 temporary permits for auto-rickshaws have been issued during the previous financial year. These numbers could have increased even further, but for legal proceedings in and injunctions issued by the High Court.

In the districts too, there have been significant increases in the number of stage carriage and mini buses plying in those regions. For example, 20 temporary and 16 permanent permits for stage carriages and 84 temporary and 4 permanent permits for mini buses have been issued in the district of Jalpaiguri. In the district of Bardhaman, 1475 temporary and 8 permanent stage carriage permits and 560 temporary and 25 permanent mini bus permits have been issued. Besides these, the S.T.A. has approved 8 inter-regional stage carriage routes within the State. It has also invited applications for grant of permits on (a) 11 inter state stage carriage between West Bengal and Orissa and (b) 9 inter state stage carriage routes between West Bengal and Bihar. Offer letters for plying of 6 air-conditioned stage carriage buses on the route of Calcutta to Siliguri have been issued. Bus

stands are also being built in a phased manner in the districts for the benefit of travelling public. Of these bus stands at Suri, Bolpur, Mathabhanga, Tufangunj and Purulia have been completed and work on the bus stands at Tinkonia (Bardhaman), Katwa, Chuchura, Armbagh, Krishnanagar, Nabadwip, Ranaghat, Jhargram and Bagnan (Howrah) is going on. Proposals for expansion of Bolpur and Katwa bus stands and new bus stands at Rampurhat and Contai are under active consideration of the Government.

Special enforcement programmes were organised in Calcutta during the period from November '84 to February '85 to check smoke emission, use of air horns and violation of M.V. Act/Rules. As a result of all these measures the total collection by way of realisation of taxes, fees, fines etc. during the last financial year will come to more than Rs. 33 crores, which is Rs. 8 crores more than the corresponding figures of the previous year.

After taking over the administration of the Calcutta Tramways Company, the present Government has been trying to improve its services in various ways. By procuring new cars and by repairing and overhauling a large number of old cars, the present Government has improved travelling facilities of commuters using trams.

But whatever efforts are made to improve the surface modes of transport, it can only

lead to marginal improvement because of the low road surface area in the Greater Calcutta region. Fortunately, we have the river Hooghly which flows through the congested areas of Calcutta and Howrah. No conscious and systematic effort was made earlier to utilise fully this natural waterway. We have already taken up a planned programme to develop inland waterways so that a complementary mode of transport is available to the people.

The three passenger ferry services, namely, Howrah to Armenian Ghat, Howrah to Chandpal Ghat and Howrah to Baghbazar via Sovabazar have been operating for quite sometime now. These services have brought immense relief to lakhs of people. Encouraged by public response, the terminal facilities at Kutighat and at Fairlie Place have been completed and ferry services have started operating from them. The number of passengers availing themselves of the ferry services across the river Hooghly has reached a peak level of 1.30 lakh per day. The State Government is now feeling the need for additional gangway at Chandpal Ghat and at Howrah Railway Station to ease congestion. It is proposed to take up construction of additional facilities at the above places during this year. The objective is to set up an alternative mode of transport along and across the river Hooghly from Nazirgunge/Metiaburz to Dakshineswar/Belur. Necessary

steps in this regard have been initiated.

The Navigation Cell of the Inland Water Transport Wing of this Deptt. has undertaken the construction of 8 major jetties in the Sundarbans area to provide landing facilities to the travelling public, where water transport is the only means of communication.

The contribution of the Flying Training Institute at Behala under the Home (Transport) Department in the sphere of imparting training in aviation to youngmen and women of this State is noteworthy. During the year 1983-84, 107 trainees have been given flying training at the Training Institute.

For the optimum utilisation of the opportunities to be created by the completion of the Metro Railway and the Circular Railway, a scheme for reorientation and rationalisation of State and Private Bus routes and Tram routes has been prepared in collaboration with "London Transport International". Schemes of widening of arterial roads like the Dum Dum Road and B.T. Road and creation of passengers shelters and other facilities at terminal points are also part of the Calcutta Urban Transport Project.

For the first time since Independence, a new extension scheme of the tramways from Ultadanga to B.B.D. Bag and Esplanade had been taken up for execution in the year 1983-84. The service has been inaugurated and it largely helped the people of Salt Lake

to come to office. During the financial year 1985-86 second extension scheme from Behala to Joka will be taken up for execution. This scheme will be completed during the coming two years as an on-going project.

The Ultadanga Bus Terminus, constructed under the supervision of C.U.T.P. was inaugurated on the 6th July, 1984. The Calcutta State Transport Corporation is contemplating to introduce certain long-distance Bus Services from this Terminus.

Recently, a study has revealed that most of the Bus stop signals in Calcutta are either indistinct or invisible. For the convenience of the travelling public, a scheme has been undertaken to clearly indicate the Bus Stops.

Ferry service across the Hooghly at Calcutta



POWER

A large number of the technical and non-technical personnel of the West Bengal State Electricity Board have been playing a positive role in tackling the power crisis over the last few years. Power situation has appreciably improved recently. The extent of load shedding has come down over the last 12 months. The cold storage and the irrigation schemes were provided with necessary supply of power. It is hoped that in coming two years the situation will improve further. Necessary measures have been taken to minimise the disruption in distribution and in generation units. The previous Government is responsible for the power crisis in the State. West Bengal which was first in power generation in the fifties has gone down to the seventh position because of discriminatory policy of the centre and the previous State Government's short-sightedness. The 40 years old boilers of Calcutta Electric Supply Corporation were not allowed to be changed and not even a single modern power project was taken up in that period. The West Bengal State Electricity Board was not allowed to

generate sufficient power to meet the ever increasing demand of Calcutta. As a result, the gap between demand and supply of power increased giving rise to load-shedding.

Endeavour of the Left Front Government:

In 1976-77 the total power generation was mere 1062 MW jointly by W.B.S.E.B and C.E.S.C. and in 1984-85 it has come up to 2983 MW. An additional 1021 MW has also been added to the State's Power Grid. In 1976-77 the W.B.S.E.B., C.E.S.C. and D.P.L. jointly, generated 4738 million units. At present it stands at 6763 million units. The generation of D.V.C. has come up to 6507 million units from 5161 million units.

From the year 1976-77 to 1984-85 the following units have started generation:

Gas Turbines	— 5 × 20 MW = 100 MW
Santaldihi	— 2 × 120 MW = 240 MW
B.P.T.S.	— 1 × 210 MW = 210 MW
Kolaghat	— 1 × 210 MW = 210 MW
Jaldhaka	— 2 × 4 MW = 8 MW
Titagarh	— 4 × 60 MW = 240 MW

And the following units are likely to start generation from 1985-86:—

Farrakka	— $1 \times 210 \text{ MW} = 210 \text{ MW}$ ($\frac{1}{3}$ is meant for West Bengal)
Chhuka Hydel Project	— 80 MW for West Bengal
D.P.L.	— $1 \times 120 \text{ MW} = 120 \text{ MW}$

Up coming projects:—

Kolaghat 2nd unit with its generating capacity of 210 MW would start generation from January, 1986.

Kolaghat 3rd Unit is scheduled to start generation from December 1986 with generating capacity of 210 MW.

Second phase of Kolaghat with the capacity of $3 \times 210 \text{ MW} = 630 \text{ MW}$ is expected to come up within 1990.

Rammam second phase— $4 \times 12.5 \text{ MW}$ i.e. 50 MW is expected to be completed by 1990. These apart, 5 to 6 mini micro Hydel Projects have been taken up for implementation. The work of the Southern Generating Station of C.E.S.C. with a capacity of $60 \times 2 = 120 \text{ MW}$ could not be started due to the policy of the Union Government during the last one and half year.



Gas turbine for power generation installed by W H S E B

No Change in the policy of the Union Government.

After reviewing the increasing demand of power in Calcutta and West Bengal the 'Prospective Power Planning Committee' apprehended that the shortage of power would be around 1100 MW in 1990. The following projects which have been undertaken by the State Government to cope with the situation are now under consideration of the Central Government but no specific decision to that end has yet been intimated to the State:

- (i) Thermal Power Station with the capacity of 240 MW at Dhumdangi in West Dinajpur.
- (ii) 2000 MW Power Generating Thermal Power Plant at Sagardighi, Murshidabad.
- (iii) $3 \times 210 \text{ MW} = 630 \text{ MW}$ Thermal Power Plant at Bakreswar in Birbhum.
- (iv) 66.5 MW capacity Hydel Power Project at the site of the Tista Project reservoir.
- (v) $2 \times 15 \text{ MW} = 30 \text{ MW}$ generating capacity first phase of Rammam Hydel Project.

The proposal of these power projects have been sent to the Union Government between 1978 and 1983.

Limitations in transmission and distribution system.

The limitations in transmission and distribution of power has been increased substantially with the increase of power generation. Although the installation of some large and small sub-stations was necessary 10-15 years back but it was not done on time. During the last 8 years a number of Sub-Stations were established to reinforce the transmission and distribution system and the works to that end are still going on. Two large Sub-Stations at Jeerat and Birpara were completed in due time by the W.B.S.E.B. In some areas the number of 'break down' and the problem of 'voltage' have been increased due to the defective transmission and distribution system.

Massive campaign against Corruption and for restoration of Discipline:—

It is absolutely necessary to maintain strict discipline for the smooth running of the generation and distribution system of power. Efforts are being made to maintain discipline in this field by introducing various measures. A massive campaign to combat corruption is on progress and disciplinary action has been taken against 30/40 officers, Engineers and Staff. Enquiry against many others is still going on.

Problem of Rural Electrification:—

West Bengal is lagging behind in the field of rural electrification too. It is said that electrification had been completed in 1100 Mouzas by 1977. But in at least 100 villages in those Mouzas none could find any single electric pole or transformer. Left Front Government, however, during its 8 years tenure has made it possible to complete rural electrification in 27069 Mouzas and 29902 Pump sets (shallow tubewell) have been energised. In this current year too, the Government has taken up a programme for supplying of power to 3000 Mouzas and 15000 pump sets with the help of local Panchayats and people's representatives.

Theft of Wire, Transformer and Electricity—A hindrance to Rural Electrification:—

Equipment and appliances of power worth crores of rupees are stolen away every year in the this State. Transformers are short circuited due to theft of electricity. This evil practice has been lessened to some extent by the actions taken by the police administration and panchayats. Nevertheless, it could not be stopped totally. Financial stringency is another major hindrance to the progress of power situation. Despite that, the Government has been considering the development of power situation with top most priority. The budget estimate for power in 1977-78 in the

State was Rs.99 crores and 81 lakhs. Since then the budget estimate for power has been increased every year and a sum of more than Rs.180 crores has been earmarked for the purpose in the current financial year despite financial constraints. In fact W.B.S.E.B is given a subsidy amounting to Rs.100 crores each year. Yet, however, the Board is incurring a loss of Rs. 50 to 60 crores approximately each year. Even in this circumstances an additional amount of Rs. 5 crores has been given to the Board to meet the enhanced salary of the Board's officers, Engineers and Staff as recommended by the Pay Commission. All possible measures are taken to increase the income by eradicating corruption, minimising over-time bills and unnecessary expenditures etc.



Small Savings

The State Government has been making sincere endeavours to popularise the different Small Savings Schemes and to augment deposits thereunder mainly for two reasons:—

1) For the last few years some savings and investment companies had been attracting depositors by promising lucrative returns. However, in reality, they were mostly deceiving the people. Many companies even wound up their business without returning the depositor's money. To make people aware of these unscrupulous companies, the State Government launched a massive campaign which has resulted in curbing their activities to a large extent.

2. Two thirds of the net small savings collection in West Bengal in a year are given to the State Government by the Union Government as loan for undertaking developmental works. Collections under various small savings schemes, therefore, play a very important role in the development of West Bengal.

Due to sincere efforts of all concerned, net deposits under Small Savings have been increasing steadily over the year.

This will be evident from the table given below:—

<u>Year</u>	<u>Net Deposits (Rs. in crores)</u>
1977-78	75.03
1978-79	114.00
1979-80	154.46
1980-81	175.32
1981-82	230.63
1982-83	264.21
1983-84	325.00
1984-85	417.89

With the sharp rise in net deposits in the State of West Bengal, the quantum of loan assistance to the State Government from the Union Government is also increasing every year.

The position at the close of 1984-85 is as follows:—

<u>Year</u>	Quantum of loan from the Union Govt. <u>(Rs. in crores)</u>
1977-78	38.13
1978-79	67.95
1979-80	91.11
1980-81	111.53
1981-82	144.53
1982-83	201.51
1983-84	213.28
1984-85	254.51



Dairy Development and Milk Supply

In the eastern region of India the oldest milk scheme is Greater Calcutta Milk Supply Scheme with its two operating dairies at Haringhata (1950) and Belgachia (1962). The aggregate production capacity of the two dairies are 3,50,000 litres per day. The scheme faced a set back basically due to two factors: (1) non-availability of raw milk for processing and, (2) major breakdown of machineries at Central Dairy.

Some of the machineries, installed originally in the year 1962 at Central Dairy, Belgachia, had frequent breakdown due to continuous use from 1972. Breakdown was common in bottle washers, bottle fillers and at refrigeration plant till 1974. Arrangements have been made again to renovate all these Units during 6th plan period (1980-81 to 1984-85): a new bottle filler has been installed, construction of van garage workshop is now completed, hard parking area and the roof of the cold store were renovated at Central Dairy at a cost of Rs. 1.15 crores. In addition,

two pouch filling machines were installed at Central Dairy, (Belgachia) to cope with the situation and approximately 30,000 ltrs. of cow milk are now-a-days packed in pouches. Several milk vans were purchased and hired trucks introduced for distribution.

In the year 1977-78 the sale of milk of Greater Calcutta Milk Supply Scheme was 2.18 lakh ltrs. in average per day. In the year 1982-83 the scheme sold 2.02 lakh ltrs. and in the year 1983-84 the sale was 2.04 lakh ltrs. per day. There were 719 depots on 31.3.78 which rose to 746 on 31.10.83. Number of card holders on 1.4.83 was 2.52 lakhs which rose to 2.77 lakhs on 31.3.84. Central Dairy produced and sold 11,550 bottles (250 ml.) of Standard Milk per month during 1977-78.

Durgapur Milk Supply Scheme

In an attempt to extend the milk supply, a dairy plant was subsequently established at Durgapur in the year 1972 to cater to the workers of Durgapur-Asansol-Ranigunj Industrial Complex. Durgapur is designed to handle 50,000 ltrs. of bottled milk and 1200 kgs. of ice-cream per day. In the year 1977-78 Durgapur Milk Supply Scheme sold 11,000 ltrs. of Tonned milk per day. The sale rose to 15,700 ltrs. of milk per day during the year 1982-83 and 13,405 ltrs. per day during 1983-84. Durgapur Milk Supply Scheme produced and marketed 22,785 cups of 50 ml. of ice-cream in the year 1977-78. But the production

of ice-cream has been suspended due to the major break-down in the ice-cream plant some time in the middle of 1981.

The dairy also produced ghee time to time which was marketed at Calcutta and Asansol regions. Durgapur Milk Scheme appointed 98 distribution agents for selling of milk. The Scheme is also directly supplying milk to Hospitals, Canteens, Institutions in its commanding area. It employs 260 regular staff and 16 officers to run the factory. Milk procurement for Durgapur Dairy is made from three chilling plants e.g. Sonamukhi, Bishnupur and Katwa. In the year 1977-78 the scheme procured 7.200 kgs. of milk per day. The collection has fallen substantially during the year 1982-83 and 1983-84. During 1983-84 956 kgs. of milk was procured per day only. At present milk is available at Durgapur, Asansol, Burnpur, Kulti etc. The dairy produces and markets only toned milk at a price of Rs. 2.70 per litre.

Burdwan Milk Supply Scheme

Burdwan Dairy commenced production from 19.11.82. The plant has a capacity of 20,000 ltrs. to 50,000 ltrs. of milk, 50 to 60 kgs. of casein and 250 kgs. of ghee per day. Unlike other scheme the dairy is catering milk in polythene packs. It is producing only one variety of milk, viz., toned milk and selling at a price of Rs. 2.70 per ltr. During the year

1982-83 Burdwan Milk Scheme sold milk on an average 1156 ltrs. per day which rose to 2777 ltrs. in 1983-84 per day.

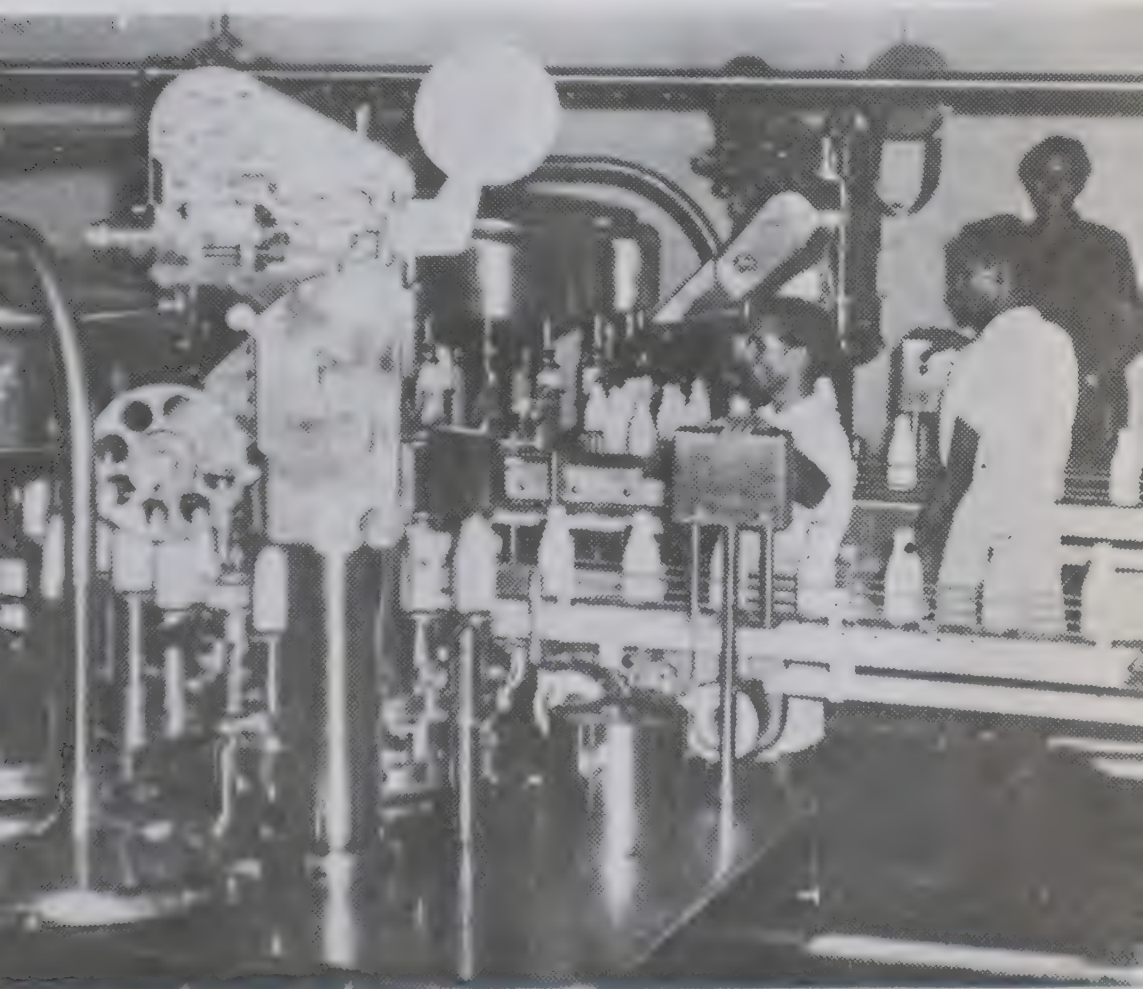
New Projects

Construction of another Dairy started in the year 1980 at the outskirts of Krishnagar Town on National Highway No. 31. It is having the same capacity as Burdwan Dairy and was constructed by National Dairy Development Board on turnkey basis. The Dairy is almost ready for operation. The dairy will cater to the needs of Ranaghat, Santipur, Krishnagar Towns. Several Chilling plants of that zone will be attached with the Dairy for procurement of milk. The estimated investment is 1.16 crores approximately.

In view of the milk shortage in Calcutta Urban Agglomeration Government has taken up another programme for establishing a new dairy along Eastern Bye-Pass, Calcutta during 7th Plan period 1985-86 to 1989-90. The land for same has not been acquired yet. The Dairy will have the capacity to handle 1,00,000 ltrs. of milk per day. It is expected this new dairy will bring relief to Calcutta people when commissioned. Estimated investment of this Dairy is 9 crores during 7th Plan Period.

In addition to the above two forthcoming dairies, a milk product factory at Salk Lake is also coming up. Five acres of land have been

made available by Salt Lake Authority for this purpose. Out of which 2.5 acres have been handed over to W.B.C.M.F. Ltd. for their office complex. Plant will produce ice-cream, ghee and flavoured milk. A product factory will also be erected in the premises for housing milk vans of this Directorate. Estimated investment during 7th Plan is Rs. 4.44 crores.



Milk processing and bottling u

Urban Development

When Urban Development work was taken up in West Bengal, in a significant way, some years ago, the outlook was that the problems of Calcutta and its environs should be tackled first. There were good reasons for this. The city of Calcutta constitutes the heart of Calcutta Metropolitan Area (CMA), a continuous stretch of agglomeration along both sides of the river Hooghly for a length of about 70 k.m. The CMA with a population of more than 10 million (1981) covering an area of about 1400 Sq. k.m. is the dominant urban centre of the entire eastern India. The CMA is the slowest growing metropolis in India but even then it is adding more than 200,000 persons per year to its population. Deterioration of civic facilities in Calcutta started during the Second World War and became critical after the partition of Bengal when Calcutta and its neighbouring areas had to accommodate a large number of refugee population. The already inadequate infrastructure facilities and services started breaking down. During the 1960's the fiscal, social and economic condition continued to

deteriorate due to long negligence. The number of slums increased and the existing housing stock deteriorated because of massive overcrowding and inadequate services. The supply of safe potable water was unsatisfactory. Extensive areas were continuously waterlogged during the monsoons, garbage began to pile up and the condition of roads and pavements was appalling. The metropolis was sinking and something had to be done to save the collapse.

Therefore, the need for evolving a perspective and defining a strategy for urban development in the State of West Bengal was acutely felt by the Left Front Government after it came to power in 1977.

From 1979 onwards the State Government took a number of financial, legislative and institutional measures in order to rationalise the approach to the urban development in the State.

- i) The first ever Municipal Finance Commission (MFC) was set up by the Left Front Govt. in 1979 to look into, among other things, the revenue income and expenditure performance of the local bodies and the possible role that they could play in urban development. The Commission made a number of recommendations relating to augmentation of resources, strengthening of institutional capabilities of local bodies and rational

principles of transfer of resources from the State Government to the local bodies.

- ii) The State Government took bold steps in enacting two new Acts, namely, the Calcutta Municipal Corporation Act '80 and the Howrah Municipal Corporation Act. '80. These two Acts have provided for a cabinet form of Government for civic administration, whereby a Mayor-in-Council would be elected for a 5 year term for day-to-day management and administration of civic affairs. The elections to Howrah Municipal Corporation were held about a year ago whereas the elections to the Calcutta Municipal Corporation are going to be held on June 30, '85 after a lapse of more than 15 years. In '81 elections were held in all the municipalities and popular local governments are functioning in term.

The State Government has started encouraging dispersal of urban growth centres throughout the State by allocating a relatively higher weightage of urban development outlay to the local bodies outside the metropolis of Calcutta. Larger plan funds are now made available to the municipal bodies outside the CMA for execution of (a) development of municipal areas, (b) comprehensive development of selected towns, (c) contribution for conversion of service previs into sanitary

latrines, (d) construction of community halls/ commercial estates, (e) bustee improvement scheme in municipal areas outside CMD, (f) improvement of the working conditions of the scavengers engaged in municipalities. (g) crash programme for development of municipal areas and (h) integrated development of 20 small and medium towns. This policy of the Government has resulted in annual per capita plan outlay for non-CMDA local bodies from Re.0.87 in '76-78 to Rs. 13.84 in 1980-81.

CMDA has already implemented two phases of Urban development Programme, namely, Calcutta Urban Development Programme-I (70-71 to 77-78) and Calcutta Urban Development Programme-II (78-79 to 82-83). When the Left Front Govt. came into power in June '77 the package of projects under CUDP-II was already finalised. So the Govt. had little time to scrutinise and modify the projects in accordance with its political and socio-economic thinking.

The Calcutta Urban Development Programme-III adopted by the Left Front Government (83-84 to 87-88) has started from April '83. The primary objectives of CUDP-III are

- i) to substantially increase the number of direct beneficiaries particularly the economically weaker sections of the community by taking up socio-economic projects for them, such as the small

scale enterprise programme, the Health Programme etc.;

- ii) to decentralise development efforts by extending investment in municipal areas instead of concentrating the major investment in Calcutta and Howrah.

The CUDP-III envisages an outlay of Rs.340 crores for the 5 year investment period. On the basis of technical characteristics and institutional responsibilities for planning and implementation the programme has been organised into 4 sub-programmes:

i) Municipal Development Programme (MDP) (in 39 municipality)	Rs. 94 crores
ii) Trans-municipal Infrastructural Programme (TRIP)	Rs. 40.46 crores
iii) Calcutta-Howrah Investment Programme (CHIP)	Rs. 87.66 crores
iv) CMA-wide Complementary Programme (CMACP)	Rs. 35.88 crores
	Total: Rs.258 crores

The rest of the project outlay will be on administrative costs and investment on the spillover projects, thus making the total CUDP-III outlay Rs.340 crores.

The Statewide Urban development strategy and the legislative, fiscal and institutional measures referred to earlier resulted in radic-

al changes in the approach to the structure of CUDP-III. Of foremost importance was the consideration of injecting the process of popular participation in respect of planning and implementation of urban development. In contrast with past programmes of CMDA the metropolitan areas outside the metro-core has received relatively larger doses of investment in the CUDP-III. Thus the total allocation to the local bodies (including Calcutta and Howrah Municipal Corporations) would be Rs.94 crores. The local bodies are to draw up their schemes and execute them within the funds allotted to them. The CMDA would however help the municipalities in implementation of their projects by extending technical and other guidance.

An attempt has been made to rectify sectoral and spatial investment imbalances between the metro core (Calcutta/Howrah) and the remainder of the CMD. For example, out of the investment of Rs.340 crores, Rs.76 crores has been allotted to different municipalities other than Calcutta and Howrah Corporations who have been entrusted with the preparation and execution of ward level projects in their respective areas. This amount has been distributed to the municipalities according to their population as far as practicable. Similarly Rs.11 crores and Rs.7 crores have been allotted respectively to Calcutta Municipal Corporation and Howrah Muni-

pality for their ward level projects. (These amounts even though considered with centrally planned projects, are far less than the investment required for preventing deterioration in urban services and consolidating past investments). Detailed guidelines have been issued to the municipalities for executing the projects and technical help from CMDA has been given to them.

Projects in important sectors have been selected in such a way that the new investments will complete or complement earlier investments so that optimum benefits are derived. This has been done mainly in respect of water supply, sewerage and drainage and traffic and transportation sectors. Outside agencies such as CMWSA, CIT, HIT, Calcutta Municipal Corporation, Howrah Municipal Corporation and Irrigation & Waterways Deptt. have been entrusted with the execution of a number of important schemes with a view to utilising the existing agencies in executing the CUDP-III programme. This has been done to strengthen the existing agencies and to enable them to play a greater role in urban development.

In conclusion, it should be pointed out that the backlog of deficiencies in the provision of civic services in the urban areas of the State has been so vast because of continuous neglect for many years that all-round urban development cannot be achieved within a

short time. Sustained work for this will be necessary. The resources of the state are not sufficient to respond to the needs of urban development. Central assistance in this regard has been far less than adequate and the recognition of urban problems by the Central Government has come only recently. The Central Government has now set up a number of Task Forces to study different facts of urban development. It is hoped that recommendation, if and when implemented, will help in coping with the pressing problems of urban development throughout the country. That's why State Finance Minister has urged for a grant of Rs.1000/-crores for the development of Calcutta from the Union Government. Now that the Union Government should rise to the occasion and stop all discriminatory treatment being made to Calcutta Compared to New Delhi and other Big Cities.



COOPERATION

Cooperation is a people-oriented movement and its success depends largely on the active participation of the people. Though cooperation cannot solve the fundamental economic problems of the people in view of the nature of the economy at least it can organise the people for helping the poor to derive social benefit. With this end in view, throughout these long eight years the Left Front Government has actively been trying to bring agriculture, fishery, dairy development, cottage and small scale industries, housing and public distribution of essential commodities under the umbrella of cooperation.

Among the important schemes are the long and short term loans granted to the weaker sections of the farmers. The farmers are encouraged to form agricultural cooperative societies. In 1979-80, to save the farmers from the cyclone and flood damages the State Government initiated crop insurance scheme. At present this scheme has been extended to the Boro and Rabi crop also. Besides, in the present Kharif season, 162 police station areas have been brought under this crop insurance scheme.

There has been some headway in Cooperative Banking also. In 1976-77 there were 19.3 lakh members in the Primary Agricultural Credit Societies whereas in 1984 the number increased to 31 lakhs. The number of Apex cooperative Banks was 163 in 1976-77. At the end of 1984 it rose to 205. From the total deposits of Rs. 32.7 crores in these Banks in 1976-77, it came upto Rs. 117.34 crores in 1984-85.

At the end of 1984 7 lakh marginal farmers, share-croppers, pattadars and agricultural labourers came under the purview of cooperative movement. With the enactment of new cooperative laws it is now possible for the people to receive loans from the Agricultural Development Banks without mortgaging their lands.

There was considerable improvement in the field of Agricultural Marketing also. Up to 1984 the BENFED and its approved Primary Agricultural Societies procured 1.83 bales of Jute and the Cooperative Department distributed 1 lakh M.T. of manures among the farmers. For proper storing of foodgrains, 1,131 rural godowns and 306 main godowns had been constructed and 25 Cold storages with the capacity of 80,400 M.T. had been built in 1984.

In non-agricultural sectors also cooperation made much headway. In government offices, factories, merchant offices, schools and col-



A consumer's cooperative shop

leges, non-agricultural credit societies formed by the employees played an important role and secured the top position in the eastern India. Up to the end of 1984 the number of cooperatives in West Bengal was 2,510 with 20 lakh membership. Their total paid up share capital was Rs. 30 crores and capital was Rs.218.50 crores. During this period their total savings rose up to Rs.138 crores.

Emphasis has been laid on organising more and more Consumers' Cooperatives in the State. There are now 28 Consumers Wholesale Cooperative Stores and 2,320 Primary Cooperative Stores. With a view to making the fishery cooperatives self-dependent primary fishery cooperatives are being reorganised. Uptil now 55,000 fishermen became members of 540 societies. In the field of cottage and small scale industries 673 workers' cooperatives, 532 Engineers' cooperatives and 70 industry cooperatives with the workers of closed and sick industries have been formed. Upto June 1984, 1,450 primary housing cooperatives have been registered.

Arrangements have been made to impart training to the members of cooperatives during the 7th plan.

FISHERY

Against an annual demand of 570 thousand tonnes in this State the total production of fish is 370 thousand tonnes only. While the target of fish-roc production had been fixed at 600 millions in the sixth plan, West Bengal was able to produce 4200 millions in 1984-85. This State supplies 75 per cent of the total fish-roc production in India.

Incubation in Chinese process is being popularised through wide 'circular incubation chamber'. The project of opening some hatcheries and construction of some breeding weirs by 1985-86 in different locations of the State is in progress.

Two training centres on deep sea fishing have started functioning. Apart from one large fishing-port at Raichak, construction of one such at Shankarpur in Medinipur district and another at Frasergunje in the district of 24-Parganas are coming up.

To help the fishermen in procuring mechanised boats, nets and other equipment the Department of Fisheries distributes grants, along with the financial assistance from Integrated Rural Development project (I.R.D.P.). Towards benefitting the Scheduled

Castes and Tribes fishermen, margin money is being given to them by the Scheduled Castes & tribal Development and Finance Corporation. Several National and Corporative banks have also joined the drive. Thus the number of benefitted fishermen during 1984-85 in the districts of 24-Parganas & Medinipur stands at 3,596, the total number mechanised boats 333 and country boats 118.

In addition to two fishing ports mentioned above, (a) a dock for fishing boats have been constructed, (b) 29 guide lights installed, (c) 70 tube-wells bored, (d) 50 houses constructed. (e) 14.33 kms. of pitched and mecadamized roads built. Life Insurance Project for the fishermen introduced by this Department—Rs. 15,000/- in case of loss of life and Rs. 7,500 for permanent physical injury. 50,000 persons were brought under this project last year.

Through financial help of World Bank, Fishermen Development Organisations have been set up in 14 districts of West Bengal. In 1984-85 35,000 inland water resources were brought under pisciculture through financial help of World Bank. 27,782 fishermen received training in modern pisciculture. Rs. 2.8 million were spent in 1984-85 on fisheries under tribal sub-plan.

370 thousand tonnes of fish in inland water resources and 50 thousand tonnes through deep sea fishing were caught in 1984. West

Bengal tops the list in inland fishing. Fishery Corporation envisaged different schemes to help the fishermen in many ways. West Bengal Fisheries Act 1984 has been enacted towards protecting the interests of the fishermen.

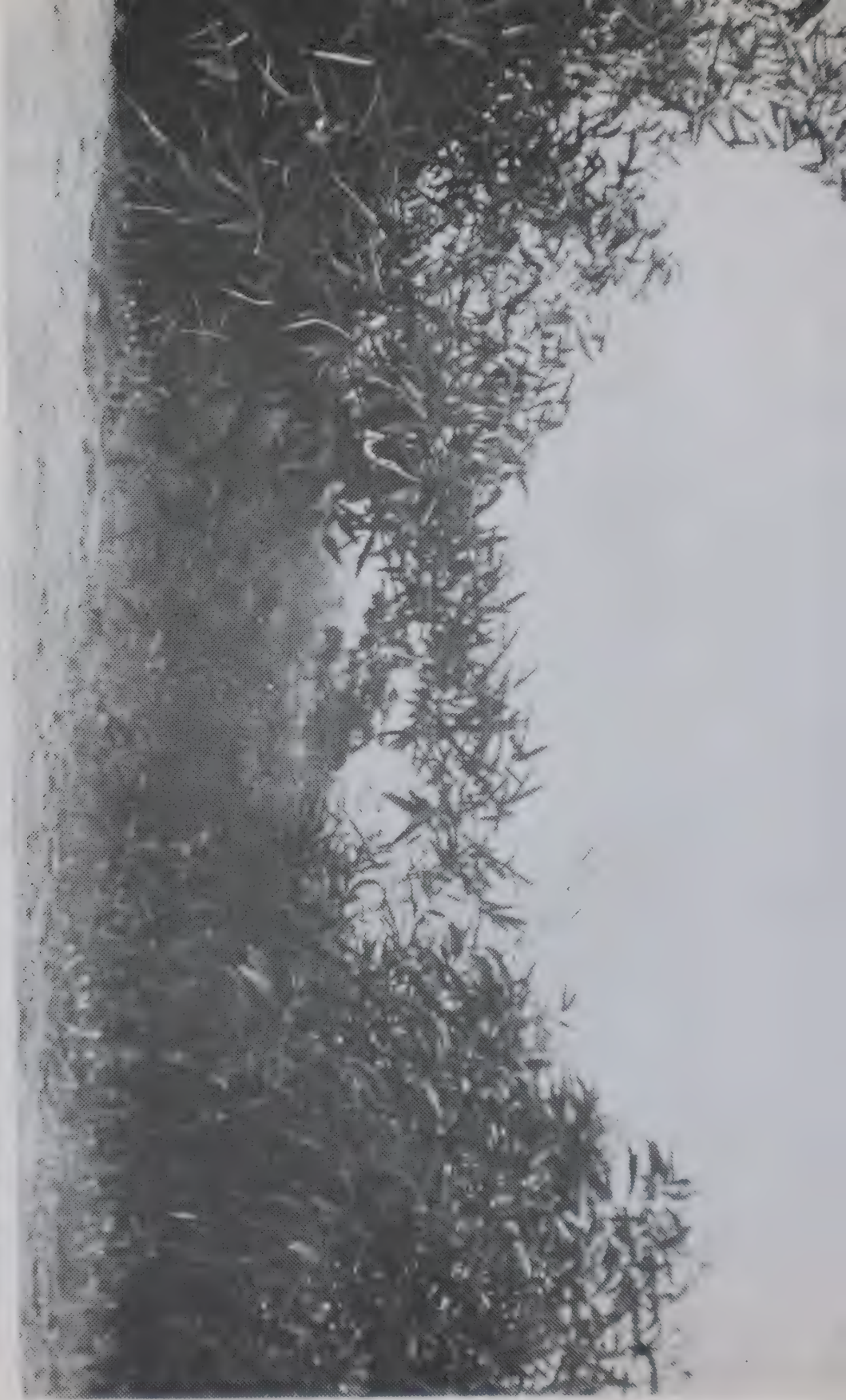


Forest Development

Forest supplies us fuel, drugs, fodder and industrial raw material; and oxygen too, that most vital ingredient for life. Forest plays a very important role in increasing the fertility of land, amount of rainfall, conservation of soil, checking the pollution of environment and maintaining the balance in nature.

Unfortunately, with the onward progress of civilisation, forest has been dwindling in an alarming rate. Vast forest regions have been cleared to build up villages and towns, industrial plants, agricultural fields, reservoirs, railways etc. Only 22 p.c. of India's total land area is covered by forest, whereas it should be 33 p.c. according to national forest policy—in West Bengal the ratio is still less.

Forest land in West Bengal though small in area, contains variety of flora and fauna. It may be classified in three categories: (1) Terai forests at the foothills of the Himalayas—a source of precious timber, (2) the Sundarbans of the delta region in the South Bengal—supplies fuel, honey and golpata (a kind of



Social forestry project

leaf widely used in thatching) and (3) forests on the reddish soil in the Western Bengal—mainly the supplier of sal tree and firewood, the central part of West Bengal being practically denuded of forest lands. On the other hand, pressures of population on land in this State is much above the all-India average; while the area of the State is only 2 p.c. of that of the whole country, the population comprises 8 p.c.

In view of this gloomy aspect more stress has been given on social forestry and farm forestry. Between 1977-78 and 1984-85 a total of 1,26,623 hectares of forest lands were created, 64.10 millions of sapling were distributed in 1984-85. Under the social forestry project it has been planned to plant trees for fuel (70%), fruit trees (20%) and bamboo (10%). According to the abovementioned project, between 1981 and 1983 trees will be planted in 93,000 hectares of land under four broad heads: (i) farm forestry in the lands owned by small and marginal formers—52,000 h.a.; (ii) village woodlot will be created through the cooperation of the panchayats in the collectively owned land—6,000 h.a.; and (iii) strip-plantation will come up through planting of trees by the sides of roads, canals rivers and railway-lines—20,000 h.a. and (iv) replanting in dwindling forest land—15,000 h.a. Under this project 9.4 million mandays were created during the last four years. Till 1984-85, 62,902

h.a. of land was brought under forestry and the target during the current year is another 24,000 h.a.

An important feature of the farm-forestry programme is that 75 p.c. of the participating peasants numbering about 250 thousand belong to the small and marginal classes. It should be mentioned that in the districts of Bankura and Medinipore small peasants have been collectively creating and protecting 'Group Farm Forestry' so highly praised by the foreign and Indian experts. A programme has been taken up to create 'Kishan Nursery' through the efforts of the farmers.

Other programmes adopted under social forestry project are:—

- (a) Distribution of saplings of fruits and firewood under the programme of helping the small and marginal farmers—under this programme selected small and marginal farmers in every block of this state are being supplied saplings and other implements (fertiliser etc.) free of cost.
- (b) Expansion of forests under the drought-prone area programme—under this programme work on forest expansion has been continuing in the districts of Purulia, Bankura and Medinipore and Jhargram sub-division.
- (c) Farming of firewood in the rural area programme—under this programme fire-

wood trees are being planted to increase supply of fuel in the thickly-populated districts.

West Bengal Pulp Wood Development Corporation formed in the joint sector has been trying to purchase wood from the village people at a reasonable rate for supplying raw material to the paper-mills and other industries. Social forestry project is well-advanced in the areas under the Sundarban Development Project. Tribal and other backward people largely dependent on forest products have been given permission to collect twigs and branches, firewood, flowers, fruits, seeds etc. free of cost. LAMPS have been given special facilities. Works have been undertaken to build roads, supply potable water, small irrigation under Special Component Plan, ITDP etc.



P.W.D. (Roads) and Housing

The Left Front has completed its eight year of rule in W. Bengal. The Sixth Plan has ended this year and the Seventh Plan has started.

In spite of financial constraint at the end of the Sixth Plan the length of metalled road extends to 14,200 K.m. Besides, the total length of the national highways is 1446 K.M. Apart from the roadways several big, medium and small sized bridges have been constructed during the last eight years of the Left Front Government rule. Some of the important bridges that have been constructed are: Narghat Bridge on the Hal di river (Matangini Setu), Kuthighat Bridge on the river Subarnarekha (Sindhu, Kanu, Birsa Setu), Panchanan Setu on the Mansai river in Coochbehar district etc.

The State Government has undertaken extensive programmes for the development of roads in several areas under RLEGP & NREP.

Because of the inaccessibility of North Bengal area better communication facilities

are needed for this region. The P. W. (Roads) Deptt. has come forward in this regard. A bridge on the river Dharla has been expeditiously constructed and some more medium and small sized bridges are being constructed there.

The Left Front Government has taken up plans for construction of bridges over the levelcrossings which will help in faster communication. Near Bardhaman town Bye pass of the National Highway has been constructed. Another Bye pass is being constructed outside Santipur town.

On the occasion of the completion of eight years of the Left Front Government following is a list of public welfare performances of the P. W. Deptt.

a) Offices (administrative buildings)

1. P. W. D. building, Bidhan Nagar (Rs. 134 lakh)
2. 4-storeyed building with eight-storeyed foundation at Alipore Bhavani Bhavan (Rs. 88 lakh)
3. Proposed multi-storeyed office building at 1 lakh Charnock Place
(Approx. Rs. 3 crore)

b) Guest House

1. Govt. Circuit House, 9/1, Hungerford St., Cal-17(Rs. 50 lakh)
2. Govt. Guest House, 2, Kyd St., Cal-17(Rs. 1 crore)

3. New Banga Bhavan under construction,
3, Hailey Rd., New Delhi(Rs. 2 crore).

c) Centres for Education & Culture

1. Bidhan Chandra Library and air-conditioned auditorium attached to Mahajati Sadan, 3, Mitra Lane, Cal(Rs. 11 lakh)

2. Complete renovation of Calcutta University Institute which was damaged by fire. (Rs. 52 lakh)

d) Housing

Construction of about 100 (one hundred) houses for the P. W. D. officers and employment in Calcutta and different districts. (Rs. 60 lakh)

e) Roads and Bridges

Road

1. Development of Sarisa roadway and introduction of Raichak-Kukrahati launch service for direct communication from Calcutta to Haldia, 24-Pgs.

(Rs. 18 lakh)

2. Repair and development of Ghosepara Road, 24-Pgs. (Rs. 15 lakh)

3. Development of Burdwan-Katwa road (Rs. 20 lakh) etc.

Bridge

1. 'Kharkhari' bridge under construction on Bhagwangola Lalgola-Raghunathganj highway in Mushidabad District. (Rs. 36 lakh)

2. Bramhani bridge on Deocha-Baliharpur Road in Birbhum District (Rs. 14 lakh)

- f) National leader/Revolutionary/martyr/Social Reformer/Writer/Playright memorial project.

List of the Statues installed

1. Dr. B.C. Roy B.B.D. Bag
2. Matangini Hazra, Calcutta Maidan
3. Hemanta Kumar Basu, Calcutta Maidan
4. Rashbehari Bose, Surendra Nath park, Esplanade
5. Martyr Memorial column, Raja Subodh Mullick Sq., Cal-12.
6. Sarat Chandra Chatterjee, Triangular Park, Howrah Station.
7. Benoy Bose-Badal Gupta-Dinesh Gupta—B.B.D. Bagh
8. Gostho Pal—Calcutta Maidan

Statues under preparation

1. Charlie Chaplin
2. Jaya Prakash Narain
3. Dr. Shyamaprosad Mukherjee.

Housing

When the L.F. Govt. came to power in W. Bengal in 1977 housing problem was very acute. The Govt. Officers who were transferred to the suburbs had to face acute housing problem and as such in 1977-78, 510 and in 1978-79, 543 flats were constructed for the Govt. employees. Moreover, 376 and 180 flats

were made for renting to the low-income and medium-income groups of people respectively. At this time Asansol township was being constructed and under the Bustee Development project 208 flats were made ready at Behala. A sum of Rs.27 lakh was spent for the industrial workers and construction of 336 flats was completed. The Housing Deptt. could not always achieve the targets, because of financial difficulties.

Apart from building flats, the Housing Deptt. has been preparing plans for the construction of townships, such as at Dum Dum-Rajarhat, at Joka in the South of Behala, at Maheshtala in Budge Budge etc.

In spite of great financial hardship during the coming year, this Deptt. proposes to construct 1735 houses for the poor people.

The Housing Deptt. is also engaged in the selling of ready-made houses and lands. At Behala 192 ready-made houses had been sold out. Lands are also being sold to the Govt. employees at Parui in Behala. This Deptt. grants loans for the construction of houses, such as to the tea-garden workers.

Loans have been granted for the middle income and low-income groups-till 1984-85, Rs.8 crore 60 lakhs have been given to them. During this period 6205 houses have been built by the low and middle income group and with Govt. help.



Bridge on river Mansai at Mathabhangha in Coochbihar district

The West Bengal Housing Board

The West Bengal Housing Board was set up in 1973 with the promise of solving the difficult problem of housing in Calcutta and West Bengal.

Initially, the Housing Deptt. of West Bengal Govt. had transferred a number of completed housing projects to the Board and the Board undertook the responsibilities of distributing them. The important ones among them are Labany, Indralok, Sudakshina etc. Soon, the Housing Board took to implementing their own Housing Project. It gave special attention to the construction of houses for the low and middle income groups. Till now, it has distributed a total of 14,500 houses, flats and plots. Most of these had been constructed with the loan from HUDCO—a Govt. of India organisation.

A present, the Housing Board constructs 1500 to 2000 houses in a year.

The activities of the Housing Board were initially restricted to Calcutta and its vicinity areas. But, shortly it has been extended to Asansol, Kalyanpur Durgapur and Siliguri areas.

Very near to Calcutta at Behala-Sarsuna, a township having all modern amenities has come up on 100 acres of land. The township that is being built up at Dabgram near Siliguri has special facilities for the economically vulnerable sections of people. Many

new housing projects are being implemented at Katwa, Dankuni, Rishra, and Kalyani. Housing projects are being taken up for far flung areas like Darjeeling, Jalpaiguri and West Dinajpur.

Some of the housing projects in Calcutta are well known and very successful, like, Karunamoyee, Salt Lake (a total of 1864 flats), Purbachal, Salt Lake (another 2426 flats and houses), Golf Green (a total of 1418 flats and houses).

A housing complex



There are five Central Jails, eleven District Jails, four Special Jails and thirtyone Sub-Jails in the State. There is an Institute of Correctional Services and a Warder's Training Institute. Since July, 1983 the Alipore Special Jail has been converted into an Institute of Mental Health for male non-criminal lunatics.

Easing of over-crowding in Jails:

West bengal has a total population of 10,000 prisoners against a registered capacity of 20,000 prisoners.

During the last Emergency the prison population in these Jails had far exceeded the registered accommodation. Many over-flow sheds were constructed during the period to accommodate the excess prison population but the problem of sanitation, water supply and unhygienic atmosphere in the Jails was rampant. There was acute problem of cooking and distribution of food to the prisoners in view of over-population.

As soon as the Left Front Government came to power, a large number of convicts were set at liberty. Political prisoners got priority in the matter of release. A good number of

Naxalite prisoners was released among which there was a good number of life-convicts also. The State Government had practically released all political prisoners. At present there are a few Naxalite prisoners with specific court cases and no political prisoner in Jails. Consequently, there has been better arrangement for sanitation, water-supply and healthy atmosphere has been restored in all Jails with the decrease in population.

Expeditious disposal of cases of under-trials:

In the past the under-trials constituted the bulk of the prison population. They were languishing in jails for months and years without any charge-sheet or trial commenced. Many of these under-trials had out-lived the maximum punishable period had they been convicted for the offence charged with. As soon as the Left Front Government came to power, orders were issued to scrutinise the cases of these under-trials and produce them before the Courts regularly. At present the number of under-trials has been reduced to half of what it used to be before. This has helped a great deal in restoring healthy atmosphere and hygienic condition in jails.

Separate jail for Women:

The Jail Code Revision Committee constituted under Sri Tarapada Lahiri as Chairman by the Left Front Government in 1978 strongly

recommended opening of a separate jail for women. The State Govt already selected a site at the Eastern Metropolitan Bypass with 20 acres of land for construction of a separate jail for women. This may, however, take some time. Considering the important and urgency of the matter, a separate jail for women has been opened in the New Jail complex at Burdwan with separate wards, bath-room, kitchen, Hospital and dining space. There is arrangement for vocational training in envelope making, stitching, tailoring and gardening for these female inmates.

Rehabilitation of stray children—Institute of Correctional Service, Barasat:

The Institute of Correctional Services, Barasat, where selected MISA detainees used to be confined became vacant following release of all such detainees last year. Since then the Institute has been used for housing stray boys admitted in Jails. The object is not only to remove them from jail environment, but also to impart institutional training to them for their ultimate rehabilitation in society. There are now 113 such boys in the Institute. Their educational range is from Primary to Class VI standard. A stray boy named Paritosh Sarkar passed the Madhyamic in the First division with star marks in 4 subjects. He also passed the Higher Secondary in First Division and now he is admitted in the Regional Engineering College, Durgapur for studies.

Institute of Mental Health, Alipore:

The number of non-criminal lunatics in West Bengal Jails is around 1000. Bulk of the male NCLs and female NCL's are confined in Dum Dum Central Jail and Presidency Jail respectively. Jail is not the proper place for the non-criminal lunatics. The Left Front Government have, therefore, converted the Alipore Special Jail into an Institute of Mental Health and transferred about 200 NCLs of Dum Dum Central Jail to this Institute. There are a matron, female nurses and GDA's to look after them. The M.O. Calcutta Jails and M.O. Alipore Special Jail are over all in-charge of the physical treatment of these inmates. So far 21 NCLs have been cured and released to their homes from this Institute under orders of the courts.

Recreational Facilities:

In all Central Jails and the Institute of Correctional Services, Barasat there are Radio sets, T.V. sets and Indoor games like carrom, ludo, chess, cards are regular feature in all Jails. Among outdoor games football, volley ball, kabaddi etc. are organised frequently. Every year sports are held with suitable events where not only convicts but undertrials also take part.

Education facilities:

There is compulsory adult education in all Jails of the State. There are arrangements

and facilities for the convicts and undertrials to study in Jail and appear in Higher Secondary and University Examinations. In fact, under the present Government a good number of prisoners appeared and came out successful in Madhyamik and Higher Secondary Examinations including University examination. One life convict Passed M.A. Examination from Calcutta University in 1982.

Eradication of private contract system:

A great achievement of the Left Front Government in the matter of Jail supply is the eradication of private contract system. All necessary articles including food grains, oil, coal and textile goods are directly obtained from public undertakings and Govt agencies like F.C.I. etc. as per recommendations of Dr. Bhabatosh Dutta Committee. This has ensured better quality of articles and also minimised scope for corruption.

Enhancement of wages:

In all Jails wage system is in vogue not only among the convicts but among the undertrials who volunteer to work.

The Left Front Government has enhanced the daily wages as follows:—

- (1) Hard Labour ... 75 paise per day.
- (2) Medium and Hard Labour... 60 paise per day. and 12 paise bonus.

Undertrials volunteering to work are given cash allowance of 37 paise per day. West Bengal is the only State in India where undertrials are paid cash allowance for work.

Open Air prison:

The Jail Code Revision Committee has recommended opening of an Open Air Prison as a pre-release measure to convicts so that they may psychologically and socially adjust to their family on final release from Jail. A 100 acre land along with 200 fruit bearing mango trees of the Lalgola Special Jail has been acquired for conversion into an Open Air Jail. There will be 50 selected convicts who will be given training in horticulture on scientific and modern method. With the release of fund for 1985-86, work has already been started for raising 10' fencing with barbed wire around the entire precincts.

JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT

Judicial Department is mainly related to the work of administration. Bearing the expense of running judicial courts, formulation of laws and providing legal assistance to different governmental departments, all these functions come within the purview of Judicial Department. But interference in the judicial system or judicial procedure of our State is beyond the jurisdiction of this Department. As a result this Department is incapacitated to bring about speedy disposal of arrear cases which is one of the perennial problems affecting thousands of common men. Under the circumstances the State Government have only been able to increase the number of courts and depute competent Judges in the rural areas. With this end in view in the last few years the State Government installed additional District Judges & established additional courts, district and session courts in the different subdivisions. In Islampur & Balurghat arrangement has been made for trial by Additional Sessions Judge. In Amta and Dantan new criminal courts have been established. One of the main reasons for

increasing the number of courts is to save the labour & expense of common people from covering long distance to secure legal benefit.

Next question arises about legal aid or providing legal assistance to the vulnerable sections of the society. Formerly, the State Government could not put much stress on it. But now through publicity campaign people are being made conscious of this aid project. In the last year the State Government could assist more than 2000 financially handicapped persons burdened with litigation. Besides there are other aspects of legal aid like settlement of disputes or arrangements for conciliation.

The second major activity is formulation of law. When any Governmental department deems necessary the creation of some rules or the revision of the same, it applies to the formulation of law section indicating the purpose of it. The said section formulates the proposed law in legally technical language. This section has to frame laws in very short time when the Assembly is in session. But when it comes to the application of laws some short comings may come and the Government have to face the trouble and the decision of the court often goes against the government. But application of laws does not come within the scope of this department. If there is some lapses or error so far as formulation of law is

concerned the Department is responsible for it. But errors are seldom detected in the formulation of laws and in this respect the success of this section is almost guaranteed.

At present different circles related to the Judiciary like lawyer or working law clerks want to preserve their right legally. There is a proposal for creating a welfare fund for the lawyers. Regarding these matters the Government is holding talks and discussions with various circles.

Another branche of this Department is related to the Ministry for Minority Affairs. The main function of this branch is to supervise and when necessary interfere in the work of WAKF and to make arrangement for the Haj Pilgrims. A hostel is being constructed in Park Circus for minority girls. Honourable Chief Minister has laid its foundation stone and the work is progressing fast. The Department wants to set up a Haj-House to accomodate the Pilgrims during the time of Haj. In other times the building can be used for different functions of the Minority Affairs.

SCHEDULED CASTES AND SCHEDULED TRIBES WELFARE DEPARTMENT

The major portion of the people of our country that are below poverty level, are the members of the scheduled castes and scheduled tribes. The Left Front Government has realised that unless some facilities are given to these much exploited and poverty stricken people, they cannot pace with the comprehensive development of the country, and for this the Government has implemented various plans and programmes for their uplift. The following table of expenditure will show the importance of the development work undertaken by the present Government for these backward people:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Expenditure</u>
1956-57	Rs. 5,523,000
1976-77	Rs. 58,800,000
1984-85	Rs. 439,219,000

Of this huge money, a large amount has been spent towards the development of their education. As a result, the literacy rate of the Scheduled Caste people has increased from 17.80% in 1971 to 24.37% in 1981 and that in the case of the Scheduled tribes from 8.92% to 13.21% during the same period. They are also benefited much from the Left Front Government's policy of free education upto XII Class.

Besides, an assistance allowance of Rs.20.00 per head has been sanctioned to the poor students of rural areas in order to bring them under school-education. During the Left Front rule the number of student's hostel, hostel accommodation as well as stipend for accommodation in hostels have also been increased for the backward classes. The Government has also built a hostel at Ultadanga, near Calcutta for suburban students coming to the metropolis for higher education, and also a hostel for girls for the same purpose is in progress.

For extending employment opportunities among the backward classes the Government has decided to open two training centres for free coaching of candidates for competitive examinations. The rate of employment in the Government level of the scheduled caste people has increased from 6.2% in 1977 to 12% in 1981 and that in the case of scheduled tribes from 1.7% to 2.5% during the same period.

The Government has provided through Financial Corporation short and mid-term loans to youngmen of the backward communities for various heads and in this regard, West Bengal has surpassed all other States of India. Uptil now more than 77 crores of rupees have been disbursed to them.

The West Bengal tribal Development Co-operative Corporation Ltd., mainly constituted with the members from tribal communities, render through many multipurpose co-operative socities financial and technical assistance to these people in various ways. This is a new scheme. The corporation is considering to build up twentyseven new industrial units during the seventh plan period and it is expected that, when commissioned, these will provide the people with employment opportunities to a large extent.

The Left Front Government has recognised the 'Ol Chiki' and printed and distributed books in the script among Santali students, so that education may be imparted to them through their mother tongue; thereby the Left Front Government has fulfilled a long cherished demand of the santali speaking people.

The tribal people very often follow many superstitions and bad usages detrimental to them. The present Government has been trying to remove them and published public-ity literature in this regard.

The Government has recently taken keen interest in tribal culture and their entertainment. The Cultural Research Institute had already been established in Calcutta and a Folk Entertainment Wing has been recently established at Jhargram.



A tribal dance

HILL DEVELOPMENT

The majority of the population in the rural parts of the Darjeeling hills depend upon agriculture as a major mainstay of their economy. Among many activities of the department of Agriculture here, horticulture is an important one. A separate Horticultural Wing was established by the State Government in Darjeeling for the execution of horticultural research and development schemes in the district. This wing deals with both research and extension work on fruits and vegetables. Some of the major achievements under these schemes during 1980-84 are: establishment of a temperate fruit progeny orchard-cum-nursery at Sonada, establishment of a sub-tropical fruit progeny orchard-cum-nursery at Dalapchand Kalimpong, from where 45,000 disease-free, good quality orange seedlings have been produced and distributed among 750 growers, establishment of 927.5 acres of new orange orchards and 307 acres of new temperate fruit orchards, introduction of the giant Kew variety of pineapple in the district etc.

Agricultural Marketing

For marketing the agricultural surpluses, the Agriculture Department have taken up a programme for the introduction of regulated market and sub-market yards from the State Plan Budget. Under the former, principal market yards are being developed at Kalimpong, Darjeeling and Bijanbari and sub-market yards are being developed in the rural areas of Kalimpong and Darjeeling. Financial assistance and working capital loans have been provided to the Mirik Primary Agricultural Co-operative Marketing Society Ltd., and the Darjeeling Fruit and Vegetable Processing Co-operative Society Ltd., Matigara. The former, it should be mentioned, has done pioneering work in the matter of establishing a direct linkage between rural horticulturists in Darjeeling by doing away with intermediary interest. The Darjeeling Fruit and Vegetable processing Co-operative Society Ltd., has been thoroughly revitalised from a defunct state and it has been discharging a valuable function in providing stable and remunerative prices for horticultural produce collected directly from farmers or from farmer's organisation in the district. It has now embarked upon a commercial production programme and launched their products in Calcutta under the brand name "KANCHAN".

Soil Conservation

Soil conservation measures in the hill areas of Darjeeling are of great importance in the context of the fact that this area receives a fairly high amount of rainfall which results in the scouring of the top soil. Such measures are carried out both under the State Plan Budget and Central Assistance by the Forest Soil Conservation Division and the West Bengal Forest Development Corporation Ltd. in forest areas and by the Irrigation and Waterways Department along with the Block Development Officers for protection of agricultural areas. Out of 68 schemes taken up so far from the State Plan Budget 33 are nearing completion. In 1984-85, these schemes will protect an area of 6600 acres of agricultural land from soil erosion. Under Central Assistance, during the same period, the Forest Soil Conservation Division have completed soil conservation measures on 1,786 hectares of land.

Animal Husbandry

Scientific animal husbandry here has great potential for generating supplemental employment and income. The developmental projects taken up in this sector in the hill areas of Darjeeling, both under the State Plan Budget and Central Assistance are directed towards tapping this potential more fully. The Himalayan Milk Producers' Co-operative

Union was established in Darjeeling under 'Operation Flood' and has over two hundred primary societies affiliated to it, which are in the hill areas of Darjeeling. The Union has a Multipurpose dairy at Matigara and cattle-feed plant at Mallaguri.

Forestry

The Hill areas of Darjeeling have approximately 1,18,000 hectares of forest area which include approximately 1,15,000 hectares of reserved forests. During 1980-84, extensive afforestation programmes have been taken up in clear felled, derelict and blank areas and in resumed tea gardens and over 3,700 hectars have been afforested. A social forestry programme has been taken up with World Bank Assistance and under this programme seedlings of fuel and fodder species have been raised and distributed among farmers for cultivation on their own lands. In order to provide communication facilities for residents of forest villages and for effective implementation of forestry programmes, over 200 kms. of roads within forest areas have also been completed during 1980-84. The provision of community benefits to forest villages has included construction of five primary schools, sixty forest huts, provision of drinking water supply to forest villages and residential quarters for forestry staff. An arboratum over 5 hectares at Lava, Kalim-

pong, is being created. The Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park has been receiving Grants-in-aid for its maintenance from the State Plan Budget while its programme for the conservation and protection of endangered species of Himalayan flora and fauna have been receiving financial support from Central Assistance. During 1980-84 an amount of Rs.566.41 lakh has been allotted for forestry development and conservation of flora and fauna.

Rural Development

The different programmes for rural development in the hill areas of Darjeeling are being executed through the Panchayat institutions as in the rest of West Bengal. Centrally sponsored programmes like National Rural Employment Programme, RLEGP. Integrated Rural Development Programme, Rural Housing and Rural Water supply along with Relief and Social Welfare programmes of the State are being implemented effectively through Panchayat institutions in the hill areas of Darjeeling. The Zilla Parishad has taken up the construction of seven bridges and twentyone roads during 1980-84 and the Block Development officers have completed 84 pony roads, 33 bridges and 30 culverts. During the same period Rs.282.15 lakhs have been allotted for Panchayat and Community Development in the hill areas of Darjeeling.

Of this amount Rs.135.47 lakhs have been allotted from the State Plan Budget while the rest has been provided from Central Assistance.

Tea Industry

The tea industry in Darjeeling dates back to 1840. By 1856 the tea industry was firmly established in the district as a commercial enterprise. The tea industry here is mostly controlled by private interests. There are presently 84 full-fledged tea gardens of which 12 have remained closed for a number of years. The Tea Trading Corporation of India, a Government of India undertaking is operating two tea gardens and the West Bengal Tea Development Corporation, a State Government concern is presently operating five.

Cinchona

After tea, cinchona is the most important plantation industry of the district. The cultivation of cinchona and other medicinal plants are controlled by the Directorate of Cinchona and other Medicinal Plants with its administrative headquarters at Mungpoo. During 1980-84, over 814 acres of new Cinchona plantations have been established and over 2000 acres previously expanded plantations maintained. In the same period, Rs.585.80 lakhs were provided for the development of cinchona and other medicinal plants, out of which, an amount of Rs.415.00

lakh has been provided from the State Plan Budget, while the rest has been provided from Central Assistance.

Cottage and small scale Industry

Industry in the district of Darjeeling is mainly cottage and small scale. The main such industries that have been promoted after taking into account the local resources/demands are carpet weaving, wool knitting, umbrella assembly, carpentry, tailoring, bag making, production of coarse woollen blankets on handlooms and bee-keeping/production of honey. For the development of carpet weaving as a small-scale industry, upto 1983-84, seven industrial co-operatives have been registered by conversion of the former training centres into co-operatives. More than 500 persons have been trained in different crafts and trades and have been assisted in becoming self-employed by providing them with loans and subsidies. Bee-keeping and production of honey has been organised in the co-operative sector as a Cottage industry. During 1980-84 Rs.173.66 lakhs have been provided for development of cottage and small scale industries in the hill areas of Darjeeling. Of this Rs.93.21 lakhs are provided from the State Plan Budget, while the rest comes from Central Assistance.

Communication

The development of communications in the hill areas of Darjeeling includes the construc-

tion of arterial roads and rural link roads, in order to provide adequate marketing outlets for rural surpluses and to open up the rural hinterland for developmental activity. The construction of arterial roads are taken up mainly by the Darjeeling Highway Division of the P.W. (Roads) Department. During the period 1980-84, this Deptt. has completed the construction of around 60.00 kms. of arterial roads.

Tourism

Tourism is one of the major mainstay of the economy of Darjeeling. A large section of the local people in the hill areas of the district derive their livelihood directly or indirectly from the tourist industry. In 1980-84 period, the emphasis has been laid on developing areas outside the hill towns for an effective dispersal of the tourist traffic. This will relieve the towns during the peak seasons and at the same time the economic benefits will accrue to a large cross-section of the local population. In this connection, Mirik has already been well developed, as the nearest hill resort in the area and has already started attracting large numbers of visitors. Similarly, the facilities for trekkers are being developed along with the popular trekking route on the Singalida Ridge to Sandakphu and Phalut. During the same period expansion, renovation and beautification of the

existing tourist centres in the area have also been undertaken by the Tourism Department. The expansion work at the Lewis Jubilee Sanatorium, Darjeeling, and the renovation of the Tourist Lodge at Tiger Hill have been completed. During the period 1980-84 an amount of Rs.133.80 lakh has been allotted for the development of Tourism in Darjeeling. Out of this Rs.30.61 lakhs have been allotted from the State Plan Budget.

Nepali Language

With a view to promoting the development of Nepali language, a Nepali press has been set up at Darjeeling. For providing encouragement for the development of performing arts among the people of the hill areas of the district, an auditorium has been set up at Darjeeling. An art gallery as an annexe of the auditorium has also been established. A Nepali Academy has been established which presents awards to distinguished and selected individuals for their contribution in the fields of literature and performing arts.

Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation

Since the partition in 1947, the number of displaced persons that entered into India from across the border was about 8 millions. But the problem is yet to be settled in its entirety. Limitations on the part of the Left Front Government and the attitude of the Government of India towards the refugee rehabilitation notwithstanding, the former succeeded in making some progress in this respect.

Number of refugees residing in different Homes were more than 8,400 in 1977. Out of this, 4,700 could be rehabilitated during the preceding years leaving about 3,600 in the Homes.

Two major hurdles stand in the way of rehabilitation of the families formerly living in the camp—(1) delayed process of land acquisition, and (2) Urban Land (Ceiling & Control) Act (1976), which further retards and complicates the process of land acquisition. Still 5,000 families could be resettled during the preceding years. Out of 149 colonies recognised in the pre-1951 days, acquisition

of 146 could be finalised only in the above mentioned period. Since 31 December 1950 more than 800 forcibly occupied colonies came up in West Bengal. To legalise these colonies, the Left Front Government had been pressing the Union Government to get acquisition of the land of the colonies, as a result of which the latter accorded sanction in case of 175 only of those colonies. Regarding the rest, the Centre has kept silent. Necessary orders have already been passed regarding acquisition of 82 colonies out of the above 175. Suitable measures are being undertaken regarding the others.

Towards conferment of title-deeds of homestead lands to the refugees 'Special Sub-registrars' have been appointed. During the preceding years more than 36,000 of lease deeds were distributed benefitting about 180 thousand refugees. Till today a little more than 300 refugees have been resettled in the 'Khas' plots of the State Government—they have been given 999 years' lease, and not 99 years.

Towards development of refugee colonies paucity of land is a major hurdle. The development cost per plot within the CMDA has been fixed at Rs. 2,500 and for one outside the CMDA Rs. 1,700, while according to the schedule of the 1975-76 rates would be Rs. 4,560 and this ceiling was to be further upgraded to Rs. 7,500 as per the schedule of 1980-81.

Unfortunately the Central Government adopted a hard line regarding a reasonable and practicable ceiling of expenditure and ordered stoppage of developmental works in the colonies of the rural areas. In spite of this the State Government spent more than Rs. 7 crores on this account during the preceding years.

About 839 refugee families of the enclaves were resettled in the districts of Cooch Behar, Jalpaiguri and West Dinajpur at a cost of Rs. 79.75 lakhs

During the preceding years free-hold title deeds were distributed among 241 institutions in the refugee areas—schools, colleges, clubs, cooperatives etc.

For other rehabilitable families than the permanent residents of the Homes the amount of dole was fixed at Rs. 35 (Rs. 30 for minors) per head up to June, 1973. From 1st November of 1984 onwards the amount (both 'cash' and 'dry') of dole per month was increased to Rs. 58 irrespective of adult and minor. The per head allowance has also been increased from Rs. 35 to Rs. 58. This extra expenditure will entail Rs. 1.05 millions per year. From the production-centres under the Homes, dhootis, saris and garments are distributed three times a year among the inmates of Homes. There are about 400 one-unit families among the Home-refugees. A project recently undertaken for rehabilitation

of willing families through a lump grant of Rs. 5,000 is being favourably responded.

The Left Front Government has been consistently requesting the Government of India for accepting the longstanding demands of the refugees for waiving the (1) 'contributory' house building loan, (2) professional loan, (3) business loan given by the 'Refugee Traders Rehabilitation Board', (4) higher business loan given by the Rehabilitation Finance Administration etc. The Eighth Finance Commission was also moved. It is understood that the Centre has accepted the recommendations of the Commission in this regard.

In the beginning the Government of India used to contribute Rs. 1 lakh to the voluntary donation fund of the Minister of the Refugee Relief and Rehabilitation Department. The contribution started dwindling and in 1977-80 was totally stopped. The Left Front Government, however, cannot overlook the need of the fund to tide over the contingencies. And, therefore, an annual expenditure of Rs. 25,000 has been fixed for this fund.

Towards, socio-economic rehabilitation of the refugees it is incumbent to implement the recommendation of the 'Samar Mukherjee Committee' entailing an expenditure of Rs. 750 crores. Immediate solution of the following problems is required in the first phase:

- 1) To legalise all the colonies set up in the

post '50 days.

- 2) To fix the rate of per plot development cost of the colonies in keeping with the soaring price-line.
- 3) To increase the financial assistance towards rehabilitation of the refugee families who belong to the Homes and formerly of the camps.
- 4) To sanction required amount of grant for rehabilitation of the refugees living in the houses abandoned by the minority.

CIVIL DEFENCE

The present Civil Defence system has been organized in accordance with the "Civil Defence Act" introduced by the Government of India on 10th July, 1968. This system had been planned to be introduced permanently as an inseparable part of defence, but considering paucity of fund this organization has been built up as a voluntary organization.

The Left Front Government after assuming the power began to take various active steps to galvanise the organization.

In different parts of the country separatist or reactionary forces are active and moreover, some of the neighbouring countries have been strengthening their military power over the years. Taking all these into consideration, the Left Front Government aimed at equipping this border state with proper civil defence arrangements. Even with its limited financial resources this government decided to strengthen the civil defence system for the security of this state.

The Civil Defence workers participate in various civil defence exercises, such as, handling the Alarm signals in time of enemy attack, participating in firefighting arrange-

ments, imparting First Aid Training and participating in salvage work and rescue operations in emergencies like flood and drought etc.

During the last eight years more than eleven thousand men and women received Civil Defence training. In 1980, a new Water Wing has been opened to tackle the flood situations and the wing did tremendous job in the State during the last four years and for our neighbouring states as well, such as Assam and Orissa. The Chief Ministers of the respective states have praised the role of the Civil Defence and the people of West Bengal are proud of its Water Wing which is indeed unique in India.

•At the time of outbreak of enteric disease and encephalitis the Civil Defence personnel came forward to the succour of the afflicted. This was a wonderful fact during times of peace by the Civil Defence System of this state.

Home guards

The role of the home guards in helping the police force to maintain law and order in the State needs no further emphasis. They have been working with devotion and confidence in Calcutta and districts. They are now essential for preserving law and order in certain areas of the State.

A number of home guards died on duty. Their bereaved families had received grants

to the extent of rupees fifteen thousand. Homeguards are now having their uniforms regularly. The daily allowance of Rs.16.11 that the homeguards now receive in this State is highest in India.

In short, the Left Front Government succeeded in its endeavour to convert the Civil Defence workers and volunteers into real friends of the society.

Within its limited financial resources the budget allotments for Civil Defence by the Government of West Bengal is given below:—

Under Head of Civil Defence

1978-79	Rs.3,03,73,000
1979-80	Rs.3,34,30,000
1980-81	Rs.4,04,14,000
1981-82	Rs.4,45,70,000
1982-83	Rs.5,26,32,000
1983-84	Rs.5,76,10,000
1984-85	Rs.7,63,49,000

Under Head of Homeguard

Rs.2,63,52,000
Rs.2,88,91,000
Rs.3,18,49,000
Rs.3,54,23,000
Rs.5,32,82,000
Rs.6,51,89,000
Rs.8,35,52,000

Labour Policy and Programmes

The Left Front Government have just completed the eight years of its rule in West Bengal. During this period various steps were taken by this Govt. towards re-orienting the Labour Policy and programmes in the interest of the working class. Maintenance of Industrial Relations is our foremost concern.

The long term industrywise tripartite settlement in respect of the major industries—such as engineering, jute, tea plantation and textiles, bear ample testimony in this regard. While fresh industrywise negotiated settlements could be achieved in respect of most of these organised industries during 1983-84, no such settlement could be arrived at in the cotton textile industry due to the inflexible attitude on the part of the employers concerned. The industrywise settlements in Jute, Tea, Hosiery and Engineering Industry and hundreds of unitwise negotiated settlements resulted in substantial wage increase and other benefits to lakhs of industrial workers in this State during the last eight years. Unlike the year-long textile strike in Mahar-

astra which did not end in conferment of benefits to workmen, strikes in jute and other industries were effective and provided better wages to workmen, enhancing their power to bargain collectively. The support and active assistance provided by the State Govt. helped gainful achievement in this regard. A case requiring particular mention is that of the D.A. settlement in Engineering industry. At the instance of the Chief Minister, the rate of neutralisation per point was fixed at Rs.1.50. This was later raised to Rs.1.50 by the Bureau of Public Enterprises. About 24% of the total disputes could be disposed of by the State Conciliation machinery during this eight year period as against 20% during the previous eight year period (1969-76). Similarly on an average 1600 prosecution cases were launched per annum under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 during this period, as against 780 cases per annum during the previous eight year period.

The determined onslaught of the employers on the working class during the last few years are manifested in the figures of mandays lost due to work stoppage. Between 1977-83, 72% of the total mandays lost is attributable to lock out, especially in the jute mills. Due to the rigid and non-conciliatory attitude on the part of the management in acting upon the charter of demands submitted by Central Trade Union Organisations on wage revision,

non-implementation of Labour Minister's recommendation of Grade Scales as per terms of the last agreement, the jute workers were forced to resort to 84-day-long strike in 1984 which alone accounted for about 1.54 crores of mandays lost that year. Similarly, the workers in the Hosiery industry had to go on strike for 143 days to realise their legitimate demands from the employers and this accounted for a loss of about 55.80 lakhs of mandays in 1984. An attempt has been made in the following table to indicate the comparative position of strike and lockout between 1969-76 and '77-84. The actual position will not be clear if the industrywise strikes in 1984 are not taken into account.

As stated above the jute industry accounts for the lion's share in the matter of men affected due to lock out. Even at present as many as 17 jute mills are under lock out affecting employment of about 75000 workers. 3 (three) jute mills in this State have already been permanently closed. In some cases the employers have resorted to unilateral suspension of operations. The approach of the jute mill employers thus appears to bring down the already reduced number of workforce. This is a mischievous move on the part of management thereby working against the interests of Labour. The State Government have repeatedly urged upon the Government of India to act upon the unanimous resolution

passed in the West Bengal State Assembly in 1982 i.e. to go in for nationalisation of the jute mills, price support for the jute growers and monopoly purchase and distribution of raw jute. Unless these measures are implemented immediately by Government of India, similar lockouts will be attempted by the management during the coming period. Labour interests cannot be allowed to suffer in such a continuous way.

While the State Government has been trying its best by various means including the action under Section 10(3) of the Industrial Disputes Act, to have the lock out lifted, there is in fact no effective provision in the law of the land which can prohibit the employers from resorting to unilateral declaration of lock out or suspension of operations. In certain cases the employers have obtained the Injunction from the Hon'ble High Court. The State Labour Minister has written to the Union Labour Minister urging upon the need to introduce effective legal measures in these areas. Such erring managements thwart the very idea of maintenance of industrial peace. The problem cannot be solved unless the dues with penal interest are recovered from them in addition to punishment under the penal code. How long can workmen suffer under the oppressive acts of such erring management?

Apart from the efforts to secure better benefits to the working class through conciliation and collective bargaining adequate legislative support was felt necessary and the State Government have introduced a number of amendments in some of the important labour laws to ensure better and quicker benefits and protection to the workers.

It may be mentioned in this connection that the industrial disputes (West Bengal Amendments) Bill, 1984 is yet to receive the President's assent. The bill inter-alia made special provision to empower the State Government to direct opening of these units which were closed prior to 1984 and for rehabilitation of the workers employed in such units before its closure. Delay in such matters weakens the State Government's efforts and goes against the very basis of rational distribution of powers between Union and the States.

West Bengal, under the Left Front Government is the first State to introduce unemployment assistance scheme. This was introduced with effect from 1.4.78 having regard to the acute unemployment prevailing in the State and the need to provide at least some social assistance for those who are on the Live Register for long period without securing employment. Having failed to receive any favourable response from the Government of India in the matter of sharing in the expenditure on unemployment assistance and having

regard to the financial limitations, the State Government have decided to reformulate the unemployment assistance scheme. While it has been decided to cover a large number of eligible registrants in gainful employment through self Employment Schemes with assistance from Banks separately as part of the social assistance schemes, it has also been proposed to continue the unemployment assistance scheme in a limited way in respect of the most deserving cases. We are proposing to introduce the Self-employment scheme in 3 districts viz. Calcutta, 24-Parganas and Howrah at the initial stage. The success of the scheme will entirely depend on the extent of credit provided by Nationalised Banks. With increasing participation of financial institutions, the coverage will be extended throughout the State.

Substantial achievement has been made possible during the period under review, in the field of social security for industrial workers. The Left Front Government for the first time in West Bengal introduced in 1980 the service system of running out-patient treatment and so far 21 Service dispensaries have been set up in this State. The scheme was extended to Ranigunj, Asansol area in the year 1981 and full medical care and attendance has also been extended in the Hooghly district during this period. Three additional ESI Hospitals at Manicktola, Asan-

sol and Bandel have been opened during this period and the number of beds augmented by more than 1,000 bringing the total strength to 3,155. Hospitalwise Advisory Committees have also been set up associating local MLAs and MPs. 16 additional R.B.Os have also been opened during this period. Govt. of India have recently made some major amendments to the ESI Act. This has resulted in upward revisions of rates of contributions of the workmen, thereby adding sufferance. Thus, the amendments have been effected without any consequential increase in medical and other benefits for workmen. The Central Trade Unions have expressed their resentment on these as the same will adversely affect the interests of workmen concerned. And the amendments have come so suddenly without requisite addition in infrastructural facilities for extending medical and other benefits.

During the period under review various steps were taken to improve the working of the Craftsmen training and the Apprenticeship training schemes. The State Government have requested the Government of India to meet at least 60% of the total expenditure in running the industrial training institutes and purchasing up-to-date machinery/tools to enable the Government to introduce new and modern vocational trades. 24 units of popular modern trades meeting current market re-

quirements have been included in the different industrial training institutes. The State Government have made all arrangements for establishment of a Regional Vocational Training Institute for women in Calcutta. Additional accomodation was also created for this purpose at Gariahat I.T.I. Unfortunately Govt. of India has not accorded its sanction for setting up such an exclusive Institute for women.

The West Bengal Labour Welfare Board has been running 50 Labour Welfare Centres including 22 model welfare centres in different industrial and plantation areas in West Bengal. The Board also runs two holiday homes—one at Digha and the other at Darjeeling. It has been decided to set up a model labour welfare centre at Pokriabong in the district of Darjeeling, a holiday home at Bak-Khali in the district of 24-Parganas and a holiday home cum model welfare centre at Haldia in the district of Midnapore.

Period	<u>Strike</u>			<u>Lockout</u>		
	No. of cases	No. of men involved (in lakhs)	No. of mandays lost (in crores)	No. of cases	No. of men affected (in lakhs)	No. of mandays lost (in crores)
1969-76	2447	25.69	4.44	1169	6.47	2.79
1977-84	757	10.44	4.61	1169	8.34	6.98

ENVIRONMENT

The Department of Environment was set up in June 1982 as a "NODAL" Department for direction and co-ordination of measures for abating environmental pollution, for environmental protection and promoting development consistent with environmental conservation. The Department has already set up an "Environmental Studies Advisory Committee" with eminent experts from various disciplines to advise the State Government on studies and research relating to environmental programmes.

The Department looks after the activities of the following organisations:

- (i) West Bengal pollution Control Board,
- (ii) Zoological Gardens—
 - (a) Zoological Garden, Alipore,
 - (b) Padmaja Naidu Himalayan Zoological Park, Darjeeling,
- (iii) Botanical Garden—
 - Lloyd Botanic Garden, Darjeeling.

West Bengal Pollution Control Board administers the provisions of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974, the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981 and Water (Prevention and Control of Pollu-

tion) Cess Act, 1977.

Since the State Pollution Control Board is also to administer the provisions of the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981, the State Board is being restructured to enable it to perform functions under the Act. The Smoke Nuisances Inspectorate which used to administer Bengal Smoke Nuisances Act, 1905 has merged with effect from 1.12.84 with the West Bengal Pollution Control Board to enable the Board to perform the functions under the Air Pollution Act, although it will continue for the time being to implement those provisions of the Bengal Smoke Nuisances Act which are not in conflict with the Central Air Pollution Act.

Some salient features of the various steps taken in a short span of little over two years are presented below.

POLLUTION FROM INDUSTRIES

Department has formulated a set of guidelines for different departments under the State Government who are concerned with development of Industries, minerals, agriculture, land, forest, towns and cities.

Industrial Pollution of both air and water is controlled by the State Pollution Control Board, it has so far issued consent to 678 units including renewals for discharging industrial effluents in the rivers, wells or underground sewerage. Consent has been denied in 146 cases including 52 in 1984-85.

Gross polluters have been identified and arrangements for treatment of effluents have been made in 24 industries either partly or fully. During 84-85, 52 industries have been directed to instal treatment facilities.

To disperse smoke emissions, 110 units have completed the construction of chimneys in 1984-85, plans for another 340 units were approved during the period.

The Pollution Control Board has been regularly monitoring the Hooghly and the Churni rivers for the last 4 years to ascertain their water pollution levels.

A status report on the pollution of Durgapur-Asansol industrial area has been published. The Pollution status report on Haldia is under way.

Soon after the Bhopal incident the Pollution Control Board alerted some major industries which were engaged in manufacturing chemicals, fertilisers, pesticides etc. A team was formed with the Deputy Chief Inspector of Factories, Medical Inspector of Factories, Asstt. Director (Chemical Engineer) from the Directorate of Industries, a representative of the West Bengal Pollution Control Board and an officer of the Agriculture Department to visit various pesticides units jointly and suggest further actions. The team has already visited a number of units and recommended further steps to be taken by those units. A High level Committee, comprising the Secre-

ties of the Departments of Commerce and Industries, Environment and Labour, Director of Health Services, Director of Industries, Director of Small Scale Industries, Chairman, West Bengal Pollution Control Board, Member Secretary, West Bengal Pollution Control Board, Chief Inspector of Factories and Deputy Controller of Explosives, East Circle has been set up to prepare a State level action plan on safety measures in respect of potentially hazardous establishments including a plan for treatment in the event of any large scale occurrence.

A report on the State of the Environment in West Bengal has been published in draft.

POLLUTION FROM AUTOMOBILES

To control the nuisance of loud horns and black smoke, concerted drives are being organised. Till now certificate of fitness of 176 vehicles were temporarily suspended for emission of black smoke and use of prohibited horns.

ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION, AWARENESS AND STUDIES

Financial support has been given to a number of voluntary organisations for undertaking environmental education programmes.

A special programme was taken up to assist Gram Sabhas and educational in-

stitutions to undertake tree planting in collaboration with the Forest Department.

Studies on the environmental impact of tanneries in East Calcutta, groundwater conditions in the Calcutta Metropolitan Area, quality of selected bathing ponds in Calcutta, physico-chemical studies of soil-plant relationship under coastal ecosystem and of wind and sand erosion in Digha, have been undertaken.

Funds have been made available to Calcutta Metropolitan Development Authority for construction of public conveniences at 9 locations in Calcutta.

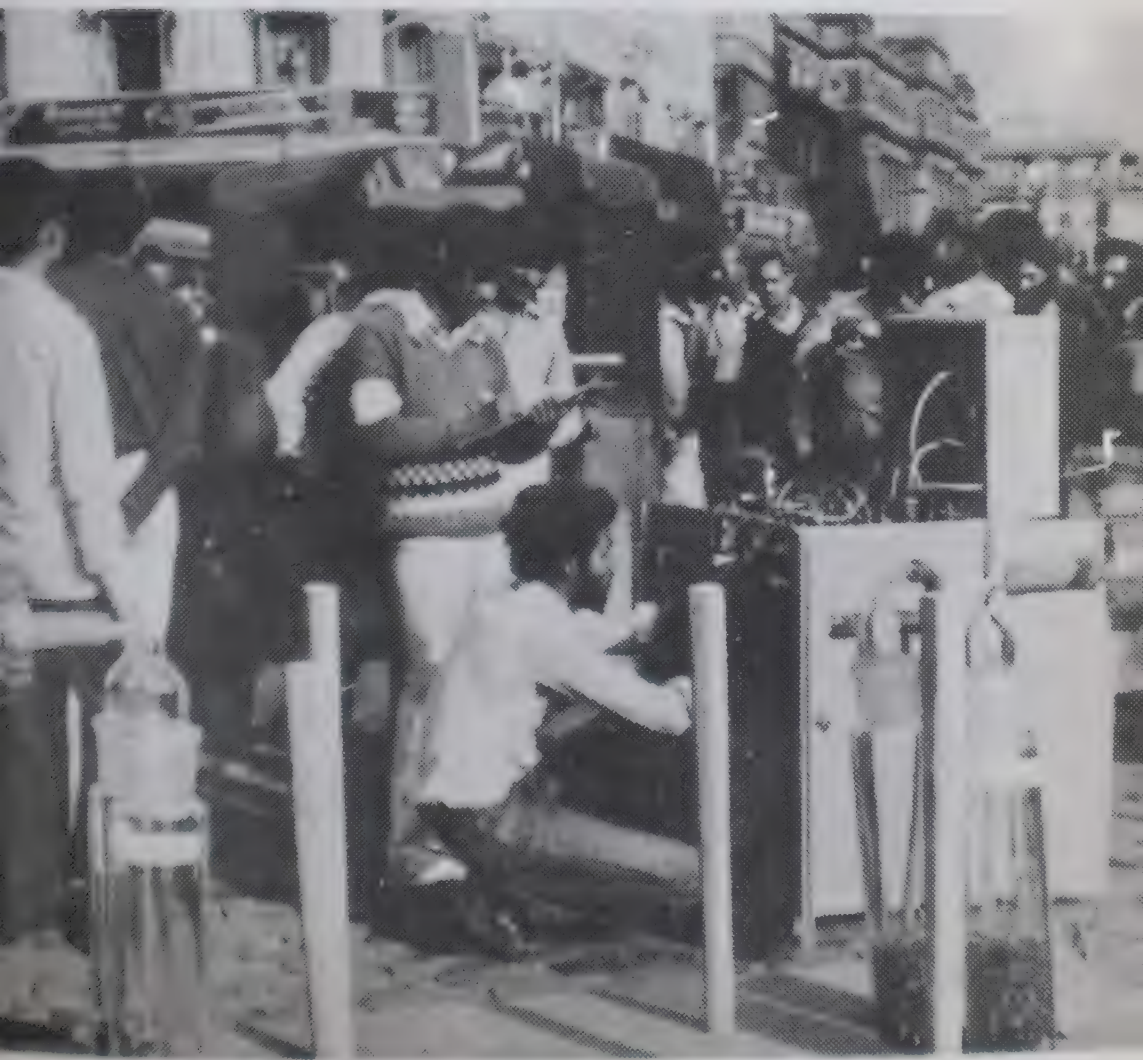
BOTANICAL AND ZOOLOGICAL GARDENS

A modern veterinary hospital for the Alipore Zoo is nearing completion. In the Padmaja Naidu Zoo in Darjeeling a nature trail and other visitor facilities have been provided.

A pair of Siberian Tigers have been imported to augment the present stock through adjustment and breeding. The Darjeeling Zoo will also soon receive a pair of Snow Leopards for propagation and research.

In the Lloyd Botanical Garden the hot houses and Orchidorium have been repaired, drainage facilities augmented and improvements to herbarium commenced. The role of this Department is in the nature of a catalyst. The department looks forward to actively interact with other Departments and development agencies towards solution of enviornmental problems confronting us.

Investigation in environment pollution



TOURISM

In 1972, the State Tourism Department owned only 9 tourist lodges with an accommodation for 387. These figures rose respectively to 14 and 430 in 1975, 18 and 843 in 1977 and 44 and 1,572 now. 26 new tourist lodges and 729 beds have so far been added during the 8 years of Left Front rule in West Bengal. Among these, the Tourism Department owns 21 lodges and the remaining 23 are entrusted with the West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation.

Among the tourist lodges commissioned during this period under this Department mention may be made of (1) Udayachal Tourist Hostel at Bidhannagar in Calcutta with 176 beds; (2) tourist complex at Mirik in the district of Darjeeling with a 1.5 km. long beautiful lake with facilities for boating, a day centre, a 60-bedded tourist hostel and three 8-bedded cottages and also some tents for the tourists; (3) a 60-bedded tourist lodge at Sajnekhali in the Sunderbans; (4) a 18-bedded lodge at Maithon; (5) 76-bedded Mainak Tourist Lodge at Siliguri; (6) the Rest House under the Forest Department at Parmadan, 24-Parganas, now converted into a tour-

ist lodge; tourist lodges (7) at Madarihāt in the district of Jalpaiguri, (8) at Ayodhya hills in the district of Purulia, (9) at Kakrajhore in the district of Midnapore, and (10) at Mukutmanipur in the district of Bankura; (11) 2-bedded eight cottages by the side of the Ganga at Barrackpore; (12) 20-bedded hill top tourist Lodge at Kalimpong; (13) a tourist lodge at Gadiara, Howrah, at the confluence of the Hooghly and the Rupnarayan rivers; (14) 8 "Trekking Huts"—something unique in our country—at various points on the sandakphu—Phalut trekking route in the Himalayas.

Under West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation following lodges have been commissioned: a tourist centre at Malbazar, North Bengal, a tourist lodge at Kurseong, Tashi-Ding Tourist Lodge in a requisitioned house beside Kalimpong Tourist Lodge, 12 two-bedded rooms added to Bakkhali Tourist Lodge, some dormitory beds added to the tourist lodge at Digha.

As a first step towards opening a tourist centre at Bethuadahari on the National Highway No. 34, a restaurant and some picnic sheds have been constructed. A tourist lodge has been commissioned at Raigunge on the same highway. Jhargram Palace Tourist Lodge has been commissioned with the cooperation of the ex-Maharaja of Jhargram.

The Sunderbans has been declared a National Park and various measures towards

development of tourism in the region are on the anvil. A programme of illuminating the temples of Bishnupur in the district of Bankura has been taken up. The Department of Tourism arranges to provide some facilities to the tourists visiting some famous fairs of our State, viz. Pous Mela of Shantiniketan, Jalpesh Mela of Jalpaiguri, Baul Mela of Kenduli etc.

Towards catering the needs of tourism potentials in this State this Department publishes a good number of folders, pamphlets etc. This Department takes part in various exhibitions, e.g., Bankura gramin Mela, Inter-State Table Tennis Tournament at Netaji Indoor Stadium, Youth Festival, Samabay Mela at Jalpaiguri and Mountaineering Meet at Darjeeling. In 1981-82 this Department organised an exhibition on tourism in West Bengal at Rabindra Sarobar stadium. Documentary films on tourism have also been made under the aegis of this Department. Two information Centres under this Department have been functioning in Delhi and Madras.

This Department now owns 36 tourist coaches and cars, 2 air-conditioned coaches and 1 tourist launch. Since 1981 conducted tours have been increasingly attracting tourists every year—while 37,009 tourists participated in conducted tours in 1981, in 1984 the number rose to 85,657. Inter-State tours are

also being organised jointly by the Department of Tourism and West Bengal Tourism Development Corporation.

Financial grants are provided to the students of schools and colleges, particularly in the rural belt towards educational tours.

In 1984-85, i.e., four years after its take over by the State Government, Great Eastern Hotel earned about Rs. 4.5 million as profit.

Representatives from different countries including India, assembled during the "Himalayan Mountaineering and Tourism Meet" at Darjeeling in May '85, spoke favourably about the arrangements made by this Department.

The growth of tourism, in the State has suffered a big set-back owing to the restrictions imposed by the Govt. of India on the movement of foreign tourists in certain areas in North Bengal. The Central Govt. has not yet responded to the State Government's request regarding the use of the Calcutta airport by the foreign airlines. These have also been affecting the growth of hotel and rural industries in West Bengal. Despite all these constraints West Bengal Tourism will progress further in the years to come.

Sundarban Development

Sundarban Development Board was formed in early 1973 with a view to developing to alluvial low lands, to bring some relief to the 2.6 million, mostly illiterate, poor rural people of the Sundarbans.

Since 1977 Left Front Government has been pursuing the following policies towards the development of the region: (1) conversion of mono-cropped lands into multe-cropped lands, (2) development of communication and transport systems and irrigation and drainage systems, (3) development of pisciculture, poultry etc., (4) free supply of seeds and saplings of cash crops e.g., coconut, sunflower, ground-nut, lady's finger, pumpkin, mung (a kind of pigeon-pea), water lemon etc. to the small and marginal farmers and landless agricultural labourers, (5) training facilities in agricultural science, (6) adult education and (7) social forestry.

27 growth centres were opened in the Sundarban area to implement these policies and a substantial growth rate has already been registered in the Sundarbans after the

following schemes have been taken up by the Board:

Construction of 73 hume pipe sluice gates have ben completed and work on 28 more is continuing; construction of 3 large master slucice begun; work on 2 closures continuing; 15 kms. of intermediate drain completed, and work on 10 kms. more continuing; contour dam in 1100 hectares of land completed; 153 kms. of silted up canals re-excavated, and work on 90 kms. continuing; 70 kms. of main drain constructed, and work on 25 kms. continuing; 62 ponds dug, and work on 100 more continuing; 200 kms. of paved road built, and work on 20 kms. more continuing; 156 culverts constructed, and work on 51 more continuing; 6 R.C.C. jetties constructed, and work on 13 continuing; one bridge being constructed; 5 offices and housing complex built, work on 11 continuing; cultivation of prawn in 35 hectares at Jherkhali commenced and arrangements are being made for such culture in 65 hectares more, 50 hectares at Mahisani have been made ready for pisciculture, work in 25 hectares will follow; mangrove cultivation in 100 hectares by the roadside and on the dams completed, work on creation of social forestry along 250 kms. of land continuing, trees for fuel, fruits and fodder are being planted; land for agricultural marketing centre at Kakdwip has been requisitioned and help extended for construc-

tion of 3 sluices; agricultural training centres at Canning and Nimpith have been rendering help in higher form of cultivation and production of cash crops in the rabi season, water and soil of the areas concerned are being tested.

Jhargram Development Board

The Jhargram Development Board, constituted for accelerating the pace of development and progress of the Jhargram Sub-division, largely inhabited by scheduled castes & tribes (12.6% and 29.4% respectively of the total population), has been successfully rendering its job. For the last eight years the Board has implemented a series of development projects.

For extending better facilities and civic amenities among the inhabitants of Jhargram the Board undertakes a number of programmes each year for implementation. Funds allotted to the Board are spent in different projects under various heads like irrigation, education, cottage & small scale industries, animal husbandary and veterinary services, forest, roads, social development etc.

The Board implements multifarious development works with active co-operation and participation of the local Panchayat bodies.



A bridge being constructed in Jhargram area

During the last eight years adequate amount of funds has been placed at the disposal of the Board most of which was utilised in creating permanent assets.

The following comparative study of allotment and expenditure on different heads between the period 1977-78 and 1984-85 would give a clear picture of the trends of development work and progress rendered by the Jhargram Development Board:

TABLE NO.-1

Financial Year	Fund allotted	Heads of Expenditure	Amount Spent
1977-78	Rs. 35,00,000	Irrigation	Rs. 13,00,000
		Roads	Rs. 13,88,533
		Forest	Rs. 92,500
		Education	Rs. 3,98,708
		Cottage & small scale Industries	Rs. 87,000
		Veterinary Services	Rs. 40,000
		Public Health	Rs. 10,850
		Total	Rs. 33,18,391
1984-85	Rs. 70,00,000	Irrigation	Rs. 21,87,046
		Education	Rs. 1,29,432
		Miscellaneous	Rs. 1,57,196
		Roads	Rs. 29,57,326
		Cottage & Small Scale Industries	Rs. 10,000
		Total	Rs. 54,01,000

INFORMATION AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS

It is the duty of the Department of Information & Cultural Affairs to cater to the people information regarding policies, statements, programmes of and their implementation by the government. Activities of this department may broadly be divided under the following streams: information and public relations, film, culture, language and archaeology.

Rural Information

Since the installation of the Left Front Government, stress has been given particularly on the rural information services. During the sixth plan 90 posts of workers were created at the block level. There is a proposal to employ one such worker at every block during the seventh plan. The project of opening one information centre in every district and subdivisional town under the sixth plan period has been completed.

Different public relations media are used for catering of information in the rural areas. Presently 104 audio-visual units under this

department are in operation all over West Bengal. Besides, there are two such units at the Delhi information centre also. During the seventh plan the time-worn equipments of these units will be changed and the Fixed Point units will yield place to the mobile ones.

As per rural radio programme 3,594 radio receiving sets have so far been distributed. Number of T.V. sets installed so far is 297, and 12 more are awaiting installation. Under this project there is a proposal of supplying 300 radio sets and 30 T.V. sets in 1985-86.

Exhibition

In 1984-85, Exhibition Wing organised 58 exhibitions in and outside the State. The West Bengal pavilion in the last International Trade Fair was highly praised by the press and the people at large. During the seventh plan a permanent pavilion of West Bengal will be constructed at Pragati Maidan of Delhi. Meanwhile land has been secured and work of the accompanying tasks are in progress.

Construction work of the building and auditorium of the information centre at Siliguri taken up during the sixth plan is nearing completion. Apart from one in New Delhi, three such centres have been functioning in Madras, Bhubaneswar and Agartala.

Advertisement play a very important role in the field of information catering. The advertisement distribution policy of the State Government is always objective and guided by democratic attitude. This policy has been determined in pursuance of the recommendations of the government appointed fact finding committee on the small and medium newspapers.

PUBLICATION

Publication of the organs of the State Government—journals, periodicals, publicity material, pamphlets etc. is centralised under this department. Journals in six different languages are published from here. Apart from these regular publications, some casual publications on different topics and in different languages have come out from this department.

Financial condition of the Basumati Corporation has been gradually brightening—while the loan in 1983-84 rose up to Rs.11,61,400 it came down to Rs.8,90,000 in 1984-85.

LANGUAGE

Towards rapid introduction of Bengali language in the official business, 103 typewriters have already been supplied in pursuance of the project of supplying by phases at least

পশ্চিমবঙ্গ



Publications brought out by the Information Directorate

one Bengali typewriting machine to every block office. 200 such machines were earlier supplied to different departments. Reprinting of the six-volume Bengali terminology is nearing completion.

Three Urdu Correspondence Cells have been set up under this department towards facilitating the increasing use of urdu Language in the official business in those areas where the number of Urdu speaking people is considerable.

FILM

With a view to alleviating the crisis in the film industry in West Bengal, the Government has been trying for it through different schemes for the last few years. Among these plans production of films by the Government, sanctioning of grants for the films made by the private producers, setting up of colour film laboratory, and Calcutta Film Centre, financial help for construction of cinema halls etc. may be mentioned.

Almost all the full-length films produced so far by the Government ~~have been~~ completed. 3 documentaries and 11 news reels have been completed this year and work on 30 documentaries and 2 news films including those started in the previous year has been continuing.

West Bengal Film Development Corporation, a public undertaking has progressed

considerably towards setting up of a colour film laboratory. Arrangements have in the mean time been made for commercial shows of 4 films, viz., 'Chokh', 'Grihayuddha', 'Dakhal', and 'Pragaitihasik' through this public undertaking.

Construction of Calcutta Film Centre is nearing completion and it may be opened in the current financial year. In this centre there will be facilities of research, film library, film archive with film shows. 'Bhombol Sardar', the children film produced by the Government in 1984-85 received the national award for the best children film of India in 1983. This film has recently been shown in the Berlin Film Festival. It should be mentioned that 'Dakhal', 'Chokh' and 'Bhombol Sardar' received President's gold medal for the best film for three consecutive years respectively.

CULTURE

With a view to putting more emphasis on the implementation of the programme on cultural affairs, a separate culture wing has been functioning under this department. Equal importance has been given on the growth of language and culture of the hill and tribal people, apart from the stress on the cultural development of the Bengali-speaking people.

Every year grants are being sanctioned to the creative organisations intimately con-

nected with the fields of drama, Jatra, songs, dance, folk culture, art and sculpture, resulting in the rapid advance towards healthier culture. The drama groups are not only given facilities of using the state controlled public stages at concessional rates, municipal taxes are also exempted for them. Financial assistance is rendered to the indigent artistes of all art forms along with the rural folk-artisties.

Financial grants to the young and veteran litterateurs for publication of their books have been made. Rare books of some deceased eminent writers have been published under this project.

Art gallery in Calcutta Information Centre is nearing completion. Collection of art works of famous artists has also begun. The Jamini Roy Art Gallery is being scientifically maintained. Competitions and exhibitions on the art works and sculptures of the new artists are being organised.

State Sangeet Akademy has been set up for the promotion of music and dance. Apart from organising All Bengal Music Competition and prize awarding ceremonies, workshops etc. programmes for pursuing research, setting up of permanent galleries and studies are being implemented. A library has, in the meantime, been started.

Folk Festivals and workshops have been organised in Calcutta and districts for reviving folk culture. A folk culture centre has

been opened at Behala. Two tribal Culture Centres have been started at Jhargram and Suri. The tribal Folk Entertainment Section has been discharging commendable services in Jhargram area.

AWARDS

For long and distinctive contributions in the fields of painting, sculpture, music and drama artists are being awarded every year Abanindra, Alauddin and Dinabandhu prizes respectively, each valuing Rs.10,000. In addition to these, fifteen prizes are being given on the basis of yearly production of dramas and jatras. Two stages named after Girish Chandra and Madhusudan are coming up in Calcutta's Baghbazar and Jodhpur Park areas respectively.

NEPALI ACADEMY

Nepali Academy in the hill areas of Darjeeling has opened up an avenue for the Nepali-speaking people towards their research and study on art-literature-culture. Every year some books are published from this Academy. A book published by the academy in 1984 has been given Central 'Academy award'. An award named after the famous nepali poet Bhanu Bhakt and some other 'Nepali Academy Awards' are being given on contributions in the fields of verse, drama, art and music. Nepali press has started functioning.

Folk Entertainment Section is expanding. A music and a drama unit have been added to the Calcutta Centre. A Jatra unit is to come up soon. A unit has come up at Siliguri. 'Music and Drama Unit' in the hill areas of Darjeeling have been catering songs and dramas in Nepali language.

ARCHAEOLOGY

Directorate of Archaeology under the control of this department conducted excavation work in a number of archaeologically potential areas of Bankura, Purulia and Midnapur and many things have been unearthed as a result. Near Ratua of Malda district earthenware and antiques dating back to the thirteenth and sixteenth centuries have been discovered. Financial assistances have been given for running of many private archaeological galleries.

Youth Services

The Youth Service Department, which started its journey with a meagre annual budget of Rs.97,000 only in 1972, has by now Rs.6,41,90,000 as its annual budget. While its activities during pre-1977 days were confined to Additional Employment Programme and two or three other such, now it can claim to have its activities diversified. All the blocks of this state now have youth services offices. Each district has one Youth Service Office.

Through 1,600 projects under the Additional Employment Programme, a total of 4,500 youths have been able to make themselves self-reliant. Towards these projects nationalised banks sanction credits up to 90% of the total amount required and the remaining 10% is granted as margin money by this department, despite its financial constraints.

Under the need-based vocational training projects, during the last eight years, 45,000 young men and women received training through 1,500 projects. In the same period about 50,000 Scheduled Caste and tribal youth received vocational training under 'Special Component Plan' which is specially meant for Scheduled Caste and Tribes youths. After completion of the training they

may choose a self-dependent project when a bank grants financial help to it.

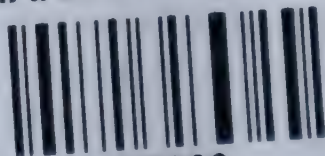
Sports and Games

This department helps to develop fields for sports and games in the rural and urban areas, supplies necessary equipments to the clubs and institutions, gives financial assistance for gymnasiums, supplies balls to each village and municipality and even financially helps smaller clubs also.

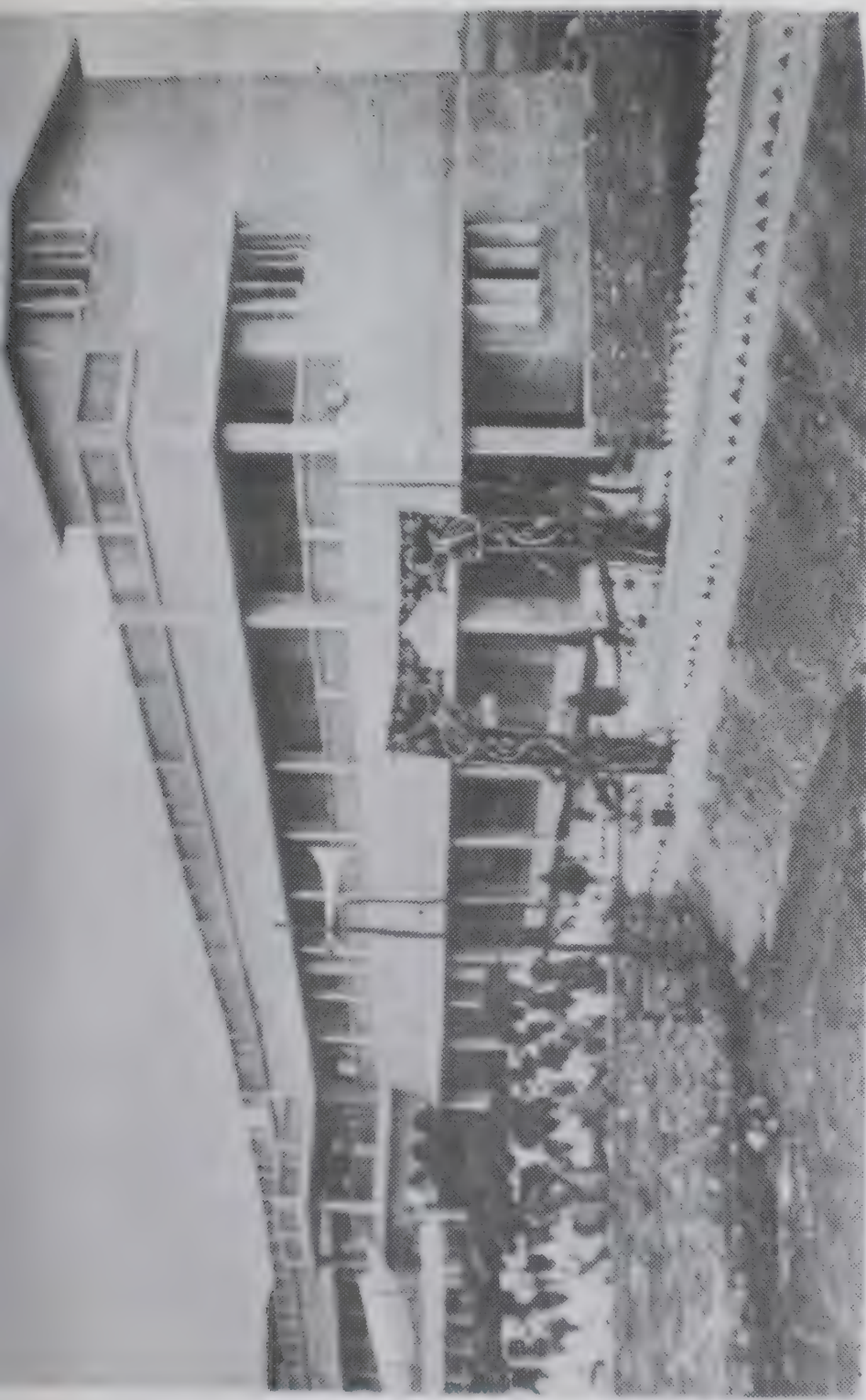
Youth Hostel

There are 28 hostels under this department, one of which is at Rajgir of Bihar, i.e., outside West Bengal. These hostels provide lodging at a cheap rate. During this period, Left Front Government has opened the State Youth Centre at Moulali in Calcutta at the cost of Rs.50 lakhs. This Centre contains the air-conditioned Dinesh Majumder Reading Room, youth hostel, vocational training centre and permanent gallery of freedom movement etc. The task of opening of one Youth Centre in each district has been continuing. Information centres have been set up in every Block Youth Services office. This department gives financial assistance for mobilizing and organizing education at the secondary level. In order to provide a store of equipments at the State Youth Centre of Moulali.

AKSHARA GRANTHALAYA



ACC.NO. 107669



A youth hostel on the day of inauguration

To promote scientific consciousness

In collaboration with B.I.T.M. under this department symposia on science topics for the benefit of the students up to the secondary stage at the state and national level have been organized. Besides, science fairs at the district, State and Inter-State levels are being regularly organized. Newly build science centre at Purulia is being run for imparting scientific training. This department gives financial help to the scouts and guides, bratachari and manimela movements. Community halls and open air theatres constructed by this department have helped the rural youth to increasingly participate in the cultural activities of the society.

Yuba Manas, the monthly organ of this department has become very popular. A proposal for transforming it into a fortnightly is being considered.

Against communalism and separatism and towards strengthening national unity and solidarity this department organizes seminars, symposia, peace marches etc.

International Youth Year

Youth festivals, regularly at the block level and occasionally at the district and state level are being organised by this department. The year 1985 has been marked by U.N.O. as the International Youth Year. To observe this year with full honour, a committee with the

Chief Minister as Chairman has been formed by this department, which has put forward three programmes—education for all, work for all, health for all—along with the original three of the U.N.O.—Peace, Participation and Development. Some projects under these programmes have been undertaken experimentally.

SPORTS

It is a bitter truth that in our country the amount of expenditure per head on sports is about 25 paise only, whereas in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Germany these are Rs.3/-, Rs.7/-, Rs.5/- and Rs.35/- respectively.

Left Front Government of West Bengal soon after its inception in 1977, decided to develop the standard of sports and games among the rural people because, about 80 per cent of people lives in the villages in India. The State Government with this end in view set up branches of the State Sports Council in each district. More than 30 Stadiums and more than 5 Swimming pools are being built up in the districts. Some of them nearing completion. The biggest and most modern stadium in Asia 'Yuba Bharati' is coming up in Salt Lake. Arrangements for football and volleyball playing have been made in the districts. Small clubs, gymnasium in the rural and urban areas are being given financial assistance from the Sports Council.

Sports talent scholarships have been introduced by the Sports Council to encourage the young talents in sports. Training camps have been started in the district and in the city. All

the employees working in the three enclosed grounds on the Maidan have been appointed permanent government employees during the regime of this government.

Famous but now destitute players of international standard of the older day are being given allowances of Rs.200/- per month, some are being given lump grant. Since its inception this government has organised maximum number of national and international competitions in this state. Big competitions are being organised in the districts and financial assistance is being given to this end.

State level training is being imparted to the players selected through successive stages of competitions—block level in the villages, municipality level in the towns and then district level. This scheme has been named State Sports School and it would be opened at Yuba Bharati Stadium within September, 1985. The Government will bear all expenditure of the trainees.



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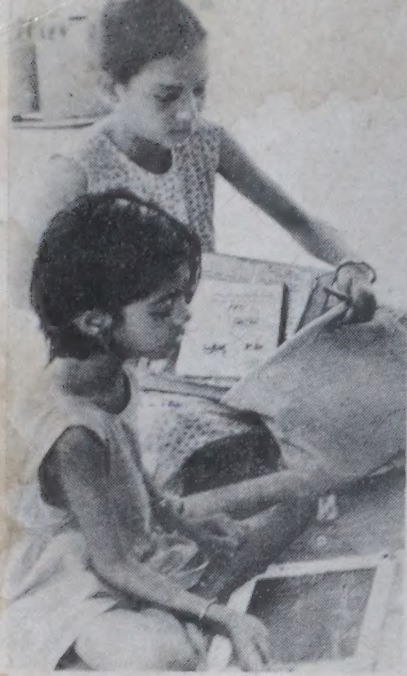
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"Our Government has been implementing various public welfare programmes on a priority basis despite limited powers and financial constraints"

—Jyoti Basu

